



A

J O U R N E Y

T O

LLANDRINDOD WELLS,

I N

R A D N O R S H I R E.



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I N
R A D N O R S H I R E.
W I T H

A particular DESCRIPTION of those WELLS,
the Places adjacent, the Humours of the
Company there, &c.

Being a faithful Narrative of every Occurrence worth
Notice, that happened in a Journey to and from
those WELLS.

To which is added,

OBSERVATIONS and INFORMATIONS to those
who intend visiting LLANDRINDOD.

And to which is prefix'd,

The PARSON'S TALE, A POEM.

By a COUNTRYMAN.

The SECOND EDITION, Corrected
and Amended.

L O N D O N:

Printed for the Author, and sold by M. COOPER, in *Pater-noster Row*; Mr. WILSON, and Mr. P. BROWN, Booksellers, in *Bristol*; Mr. B. HASLEWOOD, in *Bridgnorth*, *Saiop*; and by all other Booksellers in Town and Country.

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ANNUAL REPORT

1911-1912

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THE
P R E F A C E.

THE Success this Work has met with, has encourag'd the Author to correct and amend it, (as the first Edition was printed only from the rough Draught) and as that is sold off, to print a Second Edition ; and as a Gratitude to the Publick, has render'd one of the Parson's Tales, *See Page 66*, into Verse, which he flatters himself may at least serve to amuse, if it is of no other Advantage to the Reader: And as his Limits will not admit a large Preface, he only begs leave to return his Thanks to the Publick, who in all Probability may find this the last of his Performances, as its being the first was contrary to his Intentions.

The

The T A L E.

THE Parson warm'd with nappy Ale,
 In Words like these began his Tale :—
 In Dysart liv'd a Man of Fame,
 David ap Thomas was his Name :
 A Man, whom Fortune deign'd to bless
 With Health, a Wife, and Happiness ;
 Was born the Heir to some Estate,
 Tho' far from being good or great ;
 And as our Fools we keep at home,
 David by Fate was sent to roam.
 In London, David happ'd to find,
 Dame Fortune more than common kind ;
 But as Ambition and fell Pride,
 And many a monstrous Vice beside,
 Ne'er poison'd his serene Desires,
 Or kindled in him hatred Fires ;
 So he design'd, — as Story says,
 In Dysart Ville to end his Days.
 To cut it short, he came and found
 Himself befriended all around ;
 For some Folks hold that Friendship's Charm
 Is strong, when Money keeps it warm.
 The Wives of Edwards, Williams, Jones,
 With shaking Heads, and canting Tones,
 Extol the good, the happy Pair,
 And heap Encomiums on the Fair :

Nor

*Nor are their Husbands far behind,
But call him best of human Kind.
Here happy David liv'd, and free,
His Brain unboil'd with Jealousy ;
Eat, drank, and slept, then rose again
Devoid of Care, devoid of Pain ;
With Politicks, and what King reigns,
He troubles not his settled Brains.*

*But, — as consummate Bliss below,
No Mortal is allow'd to know, —
A Cup of Gall disturbs his Peace,
And bids Tranquility to cease ;
Th' Incumbent of the Church Affairs,
Posseſſ'd of Years, and hoary Hairs,
Whose Mem'ry fail'd, whose Voice was low,
A Curate had, one but — so so :
The Vicar thinks, the Youth apprizes
Of David's House, and then advises,
If possible, to table there ;
For Parsons don't love common Fare.
The Motion made, the Wife agreed,
And the Objectors, — Madam fee'd :
A Wonder this ! — but Cupid's Dart
Had pierc'd the aged Lady's Heart.
O Love, triumphant o'er the World,
That has so many Millions burl'd,
In spite of Reason to their Fate,
For all submit, or soon, or late :*

The

The pious Matron beretofore
 Read Pilgrim's Progress o'er and o'er,
 And other godly Books of Fame,
 Which would be needless here to name ;
 Each Sunday Night could tell the Text,
 And Heads o' th' Sermon utter next :
 The Priest and she would talk Religion,
 And harmless seem as Dove and Pigeon.
 A Series long did they enjoy,
 And found a Time to kiss and toy ;
 'Till dreadful Night, I well remember,
 The fourteenth of the Month November,
 The Husband happ'ly unaware,
 Surpriz'd the too unguarded Pair ;
 Had in his Hand a Yard of Bull,
 As tough as Horse Hide to the full ;
 His Eyes shot fire, his Passion strong
 Seiz'd and confin'd his eager Tongue ;
 Then on he falls, the Priest and Wife
 For Mercy begg'd, and begg'd for Life ;
 Their Life he spar'd, but out of Door
 He turn'd the Priest, and kept the Whore.
 He ended here ; " the Moral's good,"
 Quoth he, — " if rightly understood."

A
J O U R N E Y
T O
LLANDRINDOD WELLS, &c.

FAIME having spread abroad the Virtues of *Llandrindod* Waters, as far surpassing those of *Scarborough* and *Cheltenham*, and it having been visited by several of my Acquaintance, it was observed the Journey and Waters might be of Service to some who afterwards accompany'd me there, and it was remarked to us, that the latter End of *June*, or Beginning of *July*, was a proper Season. I set out on *Friday, July the 7th, 1744*, together with a Friend who I shall call Mr. *Jacome*, and a Relation of the Female Kind, after having been amused with Promises of more Company, which different Accidents prevented coming: I say we set forward as above, and came that Day to *Cleobury*, or as it is commonly wrote, *Cleobury Mortimer* in *Shropshire*. This Town is situate in an excellent Air, (as the long Lives of the Inhabitants, and Multitudes of Children evince; and I am credibly informed, that not many Years since died one Mrs *Barker*, aged 135 Years, who liv'd almost all her Time in this Parish, within Three Miles of the *Clee Hill* called *Tetter-Stone*;) It hath its Name from its Neighbourhood to that Hill, and a Castle built here by *Hugh de Mortimer*, in the Reign of King *Henry II.* on the Brow of a Hill, at the Foot of which runs the River

Rea ; the Building was an oblong Square, very strong in those Times, as appears by the Foundations, &c. which were at this Time examining by a Neighbouring Gentleman ; it's surrounded by a dry Ditch, except on that Side next the River, where is an almost perpendicular Descent of Thirty Yards ; the King above-mention'd rased it, as a Nursery of Rebellion, at which Time the *Mortimer's* Family was very powerful ; but my Readers may think this a long Digression, therefore I shall proceed on the Journey. The Town consists of two Streets, that called the Upper is very good Building, and looks very neat, and as there is a pretty large Road thro' it, it is furnished with several very good Inns ; adjoining to this Street is the Church, at the End of which is perhaps the highest Wood Spire in the Kingdom ; near the Church is the Form of a large *Saxon* Encampment, now call'd Castle Ditch ; and would make (as designed) a very pleasant Bowling Green : About Twenty Yards from the Church Yard is a large and excellent Spring of fresh Water, which having served for all Uses in Town (it being almost in the Middle) it turns a Corn-Mill ; in this Town is a handsome Grammar School, and Dwelling House ; and a little below is the Charity School, the Donation of Sir *Lacon Child*, Kt. deceased, who bequeathed 3,700*l.* for the Use of the poor Children of this Town ; it is a large convenient Building, the Master hath a Salary of 30*l.* *per Annum* ; all Boys that are Parishioners go free, and are afterwards set Apprentice by Moneys arising from the School Lands. The only Manufacture in this Town is Scythes ; in fine, the Town,

Town, which hath a Market on *Wednesdays*, is a pleasant Place, in a very fruitful Country, and Iv'e been informed, is lately much improved; it is six Miles from the famous River *Severn*. *Cleobury* was shewn us by a very ingenious Friend, where having din'd, we were persuaded to see a Seat of Sir *Edward Blount*, Bart. After having seen the Poor, or Workhouse, which is a large, handsome, well contrived Thing, about a Quarter of a Mile out of Town, in which House were the Poor of Fifteen Parishes, exceedingly well managed and provided for, we set out for *Mawley*, Sir *Edward's* Seat, and after walking about Half a Mile, we came to the Bank of the River *Rea*, over which is a large Bridge of Brick built by that Gentleman; we here had a View of the House, over the Tops of a thick Wood, that covered the Side of the Bank, on which the House stands, which View was exceeding fine. With some Difficulty we ascended the Hill by Steps through the Wood, and passing the Dog-Kennel, which is an handsome Building, we came to the Top of the Hill, on which the House stands: This House is built with Brick, in the most modern, noble, and beautiful Taste; the Front is adorned with several Statues and other curious Embellishments, before which is a Bason; over this we had View to a Wood, thro' which is a Vista planted with Ever-greens; on each Side the Front, at a proper Distance, is design'd two Pieces of Building (one of which is compleat) *i. e.* the Stable, Coach-House, &c. very neatly built and sash'd, supporting a Cupola, in which is a Bell; below the Cupola is a Clock with a handsome Plate. The opposite Side of the House

to the Front, is built with two Wings towards the Declivity of the Hill on which the House stands ; the most noble Thing in the House is the Hall and Stair-Cafe, adorned with Bustoes and other curious Carvings, &c. the Saloon and the rest of the House is agreeable to this ; but to describe it, would take a Volume itself, and be foreign to my present Design : Suffice it, that it is the most compleat, and what others term, all of a Piece, and has been allowed by some good Judges not to be equalled in the Kingdom ; add to this the fine Gardens, Bowling Green, Wildernes, &c. with very extensive Prospects into different Counties, which render it a Singularity. About a Quarter of a Mile below, on the River before-mentioned, is a Forge for wrought Iron, belonging to this Gentleman, which is an excellent Work ; and because some of my Readers may not have seen the Method of manufacturing Iron, I shall briefly mention it ; the Oar being taken out of the Mine, it is carried to a Furnace, where, by the Assistance of Lime Stone, and a large Fire, it is melted, and cast or run in Sand, with the Owner's Name upon it, about 80lb. each Piece, which are call'd Pigs ; then carried to the Forge, and placed in the Middle of a large Fire of Wood Charcoal, at which are two large Pair of Bellows work'd by a Water Wheel ; it is there heated so as to appear one entire Piece of Fire : then taken out by the Assistance of a large Pair of Tongs, and put under the Hammer, which is several hundred Pounds Weight ; the Hammer is by the Strength of another Wheel struck up, when by a Piece of Timber placed above, it is drove down with prodigious Force upon the hot Metal,

Metal, which lies on an Anvil, and by often turning, &c. it is formed into Bars ; this Work in a dark Night must give a Stranger a good deal of Surprize. From this Forge we walk'd to *Cleobury*, thro' pleasant Meads, having the River and *Mawley* on our Right ; upon this River are a great many Works, as Corn and Scythe Mills, Forges, &c. I have omitted mentioning a pretty Machine at the Forge, which is made to throw Water up a steep Hill to the Steward's and Clerks Houses by this Method ; from a Spring near it the Water is convey'd by wooden Troughs to a Cistern close to the Hammer-Wheel, to which Wheel is fastened a Piece of Wood, which works a Pump, which Pump forces the Water thro' Lead Pipes into a Cistern above, which is large enough to supply the Houses, during the Intervals of the Hammer's working. This was (as I was inform'd) a Contrivance of one Mr. *Crump*, lately a Steward here, and is really a pretty Thing of the Kind. We came to *Cleobury* about Six, and hearing of an Inscription in the Church which escaped my Eye, I went to see it ; the Church is a large tolerable handsome Building, the Roof, which is *Irish* Oak, is supported by ten Pillars. In this Church a Lay Deacon reads the first Lesson, and officiates as a Parish Clerk, notwithstanding there is one ; he gathers Tythes to the Value of about 22*l. per Annum* ; the Office is performed by a Deputy ; I'm told this Living, provided it were a *Rector*y, would be worth 600*l. per Annum*, which now is little more than 100*l.* a Sum too inconsiderable for so large a Cure.

The

The present Vicar is the Reverend Mr *John Attwood*, A. M. and the Deacon *Francis Meysey*, Esq; The Inscription is of a modern Date, being an Epitaph made by the Reverend Mr. *Robert Edwards*, on the Tomb of his Father, late Vicar of this Parish, which being a good Thing of the Kind, I shall here subjoin it.

*The Ritual Stone thy Son doth lay
O'er thy respected Dust,
Only proclaims the mournful Day
When be a Parent lost.*

*Fame will convey thy Virtues down,
Thro' Ages yet to come ;
'Tis needless, since so well they're known,
To croud them on thy Tomb.*

*Deep to engrave them on my Heart,
Rather demands my Care :
Oh ! could I stamp in every Part
The fair Impression there.*

*In Life to copy thee I'll strive ;
And when that I resign,
May some good-natur'd Friend survive
To lay my Bones by thine.*

I think I have done with *Cleobury*, except a Coin I saw that was found near it, which I take to be of *Lucius*, the first Christian King of this Island. We spent the Evening very merrily at our Inn, which was the *King's Arms*, slept well, and in the Morning, Saturday, July 8, at Seven o'Clock, we proceeded on our Journey. As we came in the Morning to this Town, we had more Opportunity of seeing every Curiosity, which can-
not

not be expected in some Part of the Journey ; but I shall be as careful as possible to let nothing slip my Pen, that I've seen worth Notice.

After riding thro' Lanes for near a Mile, we came to the Horse-Course, which is a small tho' pretty good one, and made on a high Spot of Land ; from which we had a Prospect of *Malvern* Hills in *Worcestershire* on the South, *Mawley* on the S. E. and the *Clee Hills* on the N. and W. over one of these lay our Road. From this Place gradually descending, we came to the Village of *Hopton*, of which Mr. *Edwards* above-mention'd is the present Rector.

As we came down to this Village, we had a beautiful Prospect ; not that the Building is fine or curious, but as it's situated at the Foot of the *Clee Hill*, call'd *Tetter-Stone*, and lies scattering up it, which rises gradually, enclosed and built upon for near a Mile before you come to the open Common, interspersed with Wood, and the Sun at that Time gave a great Advantage to the View ; all these Enclosures are water'd by Rivulets which flow all the Year from the Hill above. Pursuing our Road thro' the Middle of the Ascent described, in a little Time we found ourselves entering that famous Hill, which is the highest, except the *Brown Clee*, in the County of *Salop*, and is exceeded by none for its Mines of Iron, Lime and Quarry Stone, and prodigious Quantities of Pit Coal, which hath been wrought in several hundred Years, and now supplies the Town and Country round in a reasonable Condition, and 'tis supposed, will never be exhausted. But to proceed ; about the first three hundred Yards 'tis good plain Travelling Ground, then

then a steep Ascent for about half that Length, then rises gradually, 'till you come to some Coal Mines, which produces excellent Coal, and sold on the Bank for 5 s. per Ton. Turning to the Left, we came to the Iron Mines, near which lay a large Quantity of that Mineral, the Refining of which I have mentioned before ; I shall only say that it's found at different Depths, not as other Stone in a Rock, or joining together, but separated by Earth, and tho' the Stone be ever so small, it touches (in the Mine) nothing but Earth ; the Shape is rough and very irregular ; before the Oar is carried to the Furnace, 'tis examined by the Founder, or some other Person appointed, for the Miners are apt to mix the bad with the good Stone.

From this Place to the Top we found it so steep, for we were a little out of the common Road, that we were obliged to alight, and indeed our Horses had no small Difficulty to get up notwithstanding, being very much incommoded by large Stones, call'd, from their Hardness, *Jews Stones*. Having gained the Top, we had an unbounded Prospect on every Side, except the West ; indeed this Morning was a little hazy, which, in some Measure lessened the View : We walk'd upon a fine Turf to a large Heap of Stones when we mounted. From this Place we had near two Miles of fine, pleasant, even Ground, over the Top of this Hill, the Stones being gathered off on Account of Feed for the Sheep : We rode very merrily over this Place, by two Poles plac'd to direct Strangers in the Road. Having gain'd the other Side of the Plain, on our Right we had the highest Part of the Hill, on which is the visible

visible Remains of a *Roman Camp* ; strait before us we had another large Prospect of the Western Side of the *Hill*, at the Foot of which is the Village of *Bitterly*, and beyond that a delightful View of Buildings, Woods, Hills, Plains, &c. which afford a fine Landskip ; on the Left we had a Ridge of Rocks, for near a Mile ; beyond which we had a View of the Town of *Ludlow*. The Road, if it may be so call'd, lies with an easy Descent, by more Coal Works, to the Foot of the Hill, with a continued Prospect to the Bottom. The Rivulets from it on this, as on the other Side, are of very great Service to the Meads below. From hence we had a good Road to *Henly*, having *Bitterly* on the Right, the Seat of the late Mr. Justice *Powis*, a large handsome, tho' not high House ; it is about one Hundred and Fifty Yards from the Road, and has to it a good View, thro' a double Walk of Trees ; here is a Bridge over the *Ledwich*. From hence we had a good Road, (thro' a fine Country laden with large Crops of Grain, in a prosperous Condition,) which in the Winter is quite otherwise, it being a stiff Clay. We met with nothing material 'till we came to *Ludlow*, of which Town I shall give the Description.

Ludlow stands on a little rising Ground, where the River *Teme* joins with the *Corve* ; it is a neat, elegant, and once well-fortified Town ; who was the Founder of it is uncertain ; but it is imagined, with some Probability, that his Name was *Lud*, from the Name of the Town, and the adjacent Village of *Ludford*, on the opposite Side of the River : But whether it was a *British* King or not, I shall not pretend to say. *Roger de*

Montgomery built a beautiful strong Castle here, and encloset it with Walls a Mile in Compass ; the Battlements are exceeding high and thick, with Towers at convenient Distances : That Halt without the Town is secured by a deep Ditch. The Remains of this Castle stands on a little Hill, and has a good Prospect of the Country ; there was formerly a Lawn before it, which extended two Miles ; the Offices of the outer Court are falling down, and some Part is converted into a neat Bowling Green ; but the Royal Apartments, with some Velvet Furniture, Sword of State, &c. are still left, though sadly decayed, and it is really very dangerous going into it : There is also a little Chapel, in which are several Welch Coats of Arms ; over the Stable Door are the Arms of Queen *Elizabeth*, the Earl of *Pembroke*, &c. The celebrated Mr. *Samuel Butler* wrote some Part of his incomparable Poem in or near this Castle, of which he was made Steward by *Richard Earl of Cberbury*. Leaving the Castle, we entered the Street of that Name, at the North-End of *Mill-street*, having on our Right a neat and beautiful Walk call'd the *Mall* ; continuing by the Castle Wall a considerable Length to the House of Mr. *Knight*, who is Recorder of this Corporation ; and provided there could be a Passage obtained through this Gentleman's Garden to the Castle Hill, this Walk might with a little Expence be made one of the most delightful in the Kingdom : *Castle-Street* is very handsome and commodious ; in the Middle is the Market House, and over it the Town Hall ; the whole is an elegant Piece of Building, of Brick, supported by Pillars, jailed in and flagged. In the Hall

above

above is held all their Courts of Justice ; this Hall is so long, that exclusive of the Bar, I'm inform'd, at a publick Ball, 60 Couple have conveniently danced : At the End of this Building is a small Cross, with the Town Cistern over it ; but the Chamber being rich, have begun one of an extraordinary Sort, to which Cross we passed through a narrow Lane, there being three that run parallel to each other, leading from the Market to the New Cross ; this new Building is of Free Stone from the *Clee* Hill, and done in a quite modern Way ; they have agreed with the Architect for 800 l. From this Place, which faces *Broad-Street*, Northerly, we continued Easterly through a Street well lined with handsome Shops and good Buildings, and came to the *Bull-Ring*, having *Old-Street* on our Right, and *Corve-Street* on our Left ; a little farther we came to *Crawford's* Tower, the Gate we enter'd the Town at ; this is the Town Prison, and once the principal Gate in Town. The Streets *Mill*, *Broad*, and *Old*, run parallel, ending at the River *Teme*, and at each such Ending is a strong Gate. On this Side the Town is a handsome Bridge over that River, leading to *Ludford* ; *Broad* and *Mill-Street* are inhabited chiefly by Gentry. *Corve-Street*, (which is terminated at the Top by a handsome Gate, on which are the Arms of the Town, and at the Bottom by the River of that Name) is by much the largest in Town, and in general well built, and inhabited by People of Fashion. I think I have said something of the principal Streets, and therefore must be excused those of small Note, Lanes, &c. Suppose me now in the Church-Yard, which is in reality a delightful Place, ha-

ving a good Prospect, neat Walks, and good Building almost round it ; in the Middle, or near it, stands the Church, dedicated to St *Laurence*, which is an excellent Pile of Stone Building, supporting a very handsome Tower, in which are eight very tuneable Bells ; upon these the Townsmen are much celebrated for Ringing the Grandsire Trebles. This Tower is very beautifully built, and adorn'd with old Monuments of Lords Presidents, &c. The Church is built in a noble, elegant Manner ; the Inside is well contriv'd, and suitably adorn'd, having a good Organ, handsome Gallery, Sconces, &c. In the high Chancel is a good Altar, several handsome Monuments, &c. In another Chancel is kept the Ecclesiastical Court, for the *Shropshire* Part of the Diocese of *Hereford* ; and 'tis to be wish'd, that this Court, in which I fear too much Injustice is administer'd, (if it must be kept) were in a Place more proper for Business of such Sort. In an Isle of this Church are kept the Fire-Engines, being three in Number, two of which the late Mr. Justice *Powis* gave, as a Return for the generous Assistance this Town afforded him, when his House at *Henley* was on Fire. Here is an Inscription on the North Wall of the Choir relating to Prince *Arthur*, Son of King *Henry the Seventh*, who died here ; on the West Side of which was a College, long since converted into a Dwelling-House. Without the Town Northerly was a rich Priory, of which are small Remains left, except a little Church which belonged to it. I shall now say something of the Privileges, Prerogatives, and Government of the Town, which was incorporated by King *Edward the*

the Fourth, and has the Power of Trying and Executing Criminals, distinct from the County : 'Tis govern'd by two Bailiffs and twelve Aldermen, of whom the Head Bailiff is one, and twenty-five Common Council Men, of whom the Under Bailiff is another. The other Chief Officers are a Recorder, Town Clerk, Steward, Chamberlain, Coroner, &c. the Head Bailiff is a Justice of Peace during his Office, and a Year after ; the Under Bailiff is a Justice during his Office, and the next Year Coroner.

This Town was much damag'd in the Civil Wars, during the Reigns of King *Stephen* and *Henry VI.* yet was always recover'd, especially after the Council of the *Marches* was established here by King *Henry VIII.* This Council subsisted 'till, being found a Grievance to the Publick, it was dissolv'd by Parliament, 1st *William* and *Mary*, who divided the Government between two Peers of the Realm, with the Title of Lord Lieutenants of *North and South Wales*.

They have a good Trade, if we consider that it is fourteen Miles to any Navigation, three Weekly Markets, but the principal One is on *Mondays*, and is very plentifully supply'd. This Town is an excellent Place for the educating the Children of *Welch Gentry* ; and the Town abounds more than any other perhaps in *England* of the same Size, with good Company, who live in a very handsome Manner, independent of Trade. The Natives in general are generous, and maintain the true *Salopian Character* ; I mean Hospitality and Civility to Strangers, not much corrupted or heated with Party Rage : This is owing partly to the noble Family of the *Herberts*,

who

who represent them in Parliament, and are generous Benfactors to it ; the present noble Lord of that Name presenting them every Year with a Purse of Fifty Guineas to be run for on the *Old Field* near the Town. The Tradesmen are very industrious, the Gentry are very exact in every new Fashion, which contributes not a little to the former's well doing : But as the Gentry dress fine, live easy, visit much, and do Things very grand, it tends to corrupt in some Degree the Morals of People of inferior Condition ; it is common to see a Man here with a half trimm'd Shirt, and the other Part of his Cloaths not worth Five Shillings. As the celebrated Mr. *Pope* says,

*See ! from Strange Comfort every State attend,
And Pride bestow'd on all, a common Friend ;
See some fit Passion every Age supply,
Hope travels through, nor quits us when we die.*

However, the Tradesmen in general reap very great Advantages from the Company of these People of Quality ; in fine, *Ludlow* is large, neat, populous, and a very polite Town. The common People have a *Herefordshire* Pronunciation, but the better Sort speak very good *English*. We breakfasted here at Eleven o'Clock, and pursued our Journey thro' *Corve-Street*, at the End of which we pass'd the River of that Name, over a Stone Bridge : This River gives Name also to the Dale thro' which it passes, which is exceeding fine Land, the Sight of which delights the Eye of the Traveller, and rejoices the Heart of the Possessor. Following the Left Hand Road, we saw a Field adorn'd with the

most

most beautiful Flowers, and in the greatest Abundance, which reminded me of two Lines of an ingenious Gentleman, in his beautiful Poem on the Creation.

“ *Of fragrant Flowers with ev’ry Beauty streak’d,*
 “ *Which the most lively Colours can effect.*

The Sun added a double Lustre to the Blossoms, which were in fine Perfection ; it now began to be very hot, and Riding not so pleasant as in the Morning. On our Left was a Hill call’d *White Clift* ; between this Hill and the Road we had some marshy Land, which might (though it belongs to Lord *Herbert*) be improved to good Advantage by Draining. On our Right we had a fine cultivated Plain, of several Miles. A little farther we pass’d *Oakly Park*, the Seat of the above-mention’d Nobleman ; it hath but an indifferent Appearance from the Road, and not having Leisure to observe it nearer, we proceeded on to the Village of *Bramfield* or *Broomfield*, of which Mr. *Cornwall* is the present Incumbent. This is a large scattering Village ; here we pass’d the River *Onney*, over a large Stone Bridge. This River empties itself into the *Teme*, a little below ; the Church hath a good Look from the Bridge, almost at the End of which is a good House, which we concluded to be the Parson’s. The River here is not large, but is apt to arise to a great Height by Falls from Hills above, in the Winter Season. Leaving this well-cultivated Village, we entered some rough Ground, where once *Mock-tree-Forest* stood. Here a Country Fellow directed us which Road to take, (for

my

my Readers are to know, that none of the Company had been on this Road further than *Ludlow* before;) in half an Hour we left the Vale, and ascended a Hill, tho' not a step one; here we had a good Prospect with a refreshing Breeze, that allay'd the Heat of the Sun; we rode very merrily over this Hill, and having reached the opposite Side, we had a fine extensive Prospect of the Vales below, partly in this, and partly in the County of *Hereford*; of which the following Lines from *Claudian*, as *Sir Richard Steele* writes them, gives a good Idea.

*The Mountain, when the Summit once you gain,
Falls by Degrees, and sinks into a Plain,
Where the pleased Eye may flow'ry Meads behold,
Enclosed with branching Oar, and edg'd with Gold;
Or where large Crops the gen'rrous Glebe supplies,
And yellow Harvests unprovok'd arise.*

The first Place we came to when off the Hill, was *Kynton*, a Hamlet belonging to *Lantwardine*, having a good Road; in half an Hour we came to that Village, which is a very large one, and pretty well built; it consists of two Streets, running parallel with each other; and the Church, which hath two Isles, and a good Tower, is built in the Space betwixt the Streets, the one of which ends at the Bridge over the *Teme*, and the other about sixty Yards above, on the Banks of that River. I observed that the best Houses in it were publick. The *Teme* here is a pretty large River, but apt to overflow its Banks: The Bridge is of Stone, and very large. Here we left *Shropshire*, that River parting it in this Place

Place from that of *Hereford*. As soon as we entered the last mention'd County, we found very visible Marks of the Impetuosity of the River, when out of Bounds. Here we entered a fine Vale, which continued to *Knighton* in *Radnorshire*, which is five Miles, according to Computation, and which I take to be seven *English* ones. At a small Distance, on the Right, we had a View of a neat House through a large Grove of fine Trees, which belongs to one Mr. *Collier*. Passing betwixt a large Number of fine Fields, full of great Crops of Grain, we came to Part of the Village of *Walford*, and the Hills round us were covered with Woods. We all agreed this was the finest Vale we had seen, it being full of Inhabitants, exceeding fine Land, beautifully diversify'd with Woods, Meads, Rivers, and Plains ; full of Cattle, and, as I said before, very large Crops of Grain in the Fields. The Road being good, the Weather fine, and our Journey exceeding pleasant, keeping partly to the Right, we came in half an Hour to *Brampton Bryan*, where is a Seat of the Right Honourable *Edward Earl of Oxford and Mortimer* : We alighted at a publick House, and walked to see his Lordship's, which is, together with an old Castle, and almost as old a Church, so much surrounded with large Trees, that it is almost impossible to see it before you are within two hundred Yards of it. The House is large, plaister'd white, fash'd, and built after a modern, tho' no elegant taste ; but is palli-fadoed in Front : The best Furniture is, I am told, kept at the other Family Seats. The Remains of the Castle is within twenty Yards of

the House, the greater Part of which is yet standing, but the Top is, through Neglect, and a little suffering in the Civil War, gone much to Decay, though the Vanes or Weather Cocks are still there; and two large Towers on each Side the Gate are still entire: The Church is very old, but repaired; it suffered more in the late War, than the Castle; its Steeple was battered so as to be left in a ruinous Condition to this Day; for it is observable, that the victorious Saints of those Times, shewed more Malice in destroyed Churches, than Bravery in taking Castles.

We returned to our Inn, at the Door of which sat two or three Neighbours drowning their Cares and Senses; we went by them into an inner Room, but was soon followed by one of the Company. It seems he apprehended my Cousin was a *North Welch* Woman, she having on a black Hood: He came into our Room, and seemed complaisantly impudent; and, after finding his Mistake, with a great deal of formal Ceremony, begged our Pardon. His Company was diverting enough for half an Hour, which was the Time we staid with him; it seems he was a Surgeon, pretended a deal of Judgment in the Waters, (after being told where we were going) drank his Liquor, and took his Snuff with the most whimsical Air I have seen; however he recommended us to a House in *Knighton*, which was of Service to us, it being a very good one. We parted with him, and rode towards *Knighton*, which they called three Miles, and which I take to be four and a half. We continued up the Vale, which here was narrower, and

and so on the higher we went: On our Right was the River *Teme*, and beyond it a fine Hill, covered with Woods; on the Left were two Parks, well stored with Deer, the one Lord *Oxford's*, and the other Mrs. *Powell's* of *Stanwick*. In the Bottom of the Vale, through which was our Road, are very fruitful Meads; and the Foot of the Hill had fine Burdens of Corn. After riding two Miles, we came to a pretty House by the Road Side, called *Heart's Ease*; it is of Free Stone, sash'd, and done after a modern Taste; this belongs to the above Mrs. *Powell*. Near this House, a small Brook (which falls into the *Teme*) divides the Kingdom of *England* from the Principality of *Wales*, i. e. separates *Herefordshire* from *Radnorshire*. On the other Side the River, is a pretty neat Church, with several handsome Houses near it: The River often overflowing its Banks, makes this Road dirty, and being covered with Bushes, was not good travelling even now. We were observing, that provided the Road through this narrow Vale was near *London*, it would be much frequented by the Gentlemen of the Road. My Company here were very sick, and myself being but indifferent, (though I was obliged to appear otherwise) I forced them on to *Knighton*, which, when we saw first, raised my Friends Spirits. We soon arrived there, and alighted at the *Old George*, being the House recommended by our Friend at *Brampton Bryan*, where we were entertained much beyond our Expectation; and though it was in *Wales*, I declare I was never accommodated more to my Satisfaction in *England*; Our Victuals were very good, and well dress'd:

our Liquors good, and both reasonable enough. We dined merrily ; drank a Glass or two after, (not forgetting our Surgeon.) We sat after Dinner an Hour, being a little tired. Our Landlord gave us what Information he could, but being unacquainted with the Road, he procured us the Names of the Places we were to pass through, from a Person in Town, which Names were *Menoyt*, *Bletbvh*, *Bridgend*, or *Pena Pont*, *Llanbadern*, and so to *Llandrindod* : Our courteous Landlord also conducted us a Mile out of Town, and directed us as far as he knew ; this being about half an Hour past Four in the Afternoon. Having parted with our Guide, we had rising Ground till we came to a Place called *Worrall*, where is a publick House, at the Entrance of a Mountain, which continues plain on the Top for two Miles : Our Descent was indifferently easy, though something intricate and winding. In one Place the Hill rises almost perpendicular above us, and another not far from it almost as high. Some People have pretended, that in *Wales* two Men have conversed with each other from different Hills, who would be a whole Day going from one Place to the other, which can hardly be allow'd ; yet I believe on these, they may be full two Hours. Here is, I think, the most retired Place in this Island, for a Man (if there were any left so ridiculous in it) to spend the Remainder of his Life in an hermitical State. Following a Road to the Right, we came to *Menoyt*, which is situated in a pleasant Valley, surrounded (as you may suppose) by Hills. Here has been a handsome, and perhaps a grand Mantic House, with wall'd Orchards, &c. and

the

the House, though decayed, is a large Pile of Building, and inhabited by a Tenant. We were here directed wrong by an old Fellow ; but hearing a Man whistle in a Wood above, he set us right up the Valley, which Course was almost North. It will not be improper to say, that our Journey was considerable longer, than if we had gone straight ; indeed I believe we went almost every Point of the Compafs ; for when on a Mountain, we were often obliged to go a contrary Way, in order to get off ; and when in a Valley, perhaps a Mile or two more through it, than otherwise we should, if it had been possible to have made a Road out of it in the proper Place. Following the Road up the Vale, which was full of Oats, Barley, Hay, &c. in an Hour we came to the Village of *Blethvab*, which stands at the Foot of a large Mountain, to which I shall give the Name of *Blethvab Mountain*. Passing a small Brook, we had the Church, which is no mean *Welch* one, on our Right : We asked the Road of a Man here, but he being an individual *Welchman*, did not understand me ; however he called his Wife, who directed us straight up the Mountain. I now concluded we were indisputably in *Wales*. This obliged us to go *West*, or rather *South West* : We ascended the Hill, on a fine Turf, with a Vale on our Left, and another behind us ; and though we were in so obscure a Part of the World, with no Vistoes, Buildings, Canals, &c. (the Works of a more refined Part of Mankind than these Inhabitants) Nature, with the Assistance of this small Village, had so beautifully displayed itself, that it cannot go undescribed. On our Left,

(having

(having faced about) was the Village, with several Meads separated by a Brook ; beyond it a very high Mountain : In our Front was the Valley we had pass'd, on whose Left Side were a great Number of Fields, loaded with Crops of Grain, which continued farther than our Eye could reach : On the Right Side of the Vale was a Wood, the Top of which was near even with the Place we stood on : On our Right was another Valley, on whose opposite Side were great Numbers of Sheep, attended by Men with Dogs, as on the Plain near *Salisbury* ; and, in short, the Place afforded a View surprisingly singular.

We pursued our Journey on the Mountain, having on our Left a small Rill, which supply'd the Village below ; this Rill, continued with us near a Mile, where we found the Spring ; following the straight Path about a Mile more, we reach'd the Top of the Mountain ; on our Right were a great many more, which seem'd heap'd on each other, to a great Distance, but we could neither see Tree, Shrub, or any thing green, but a little Grafs ; a good many Sheep, but not one human Creature. The Land is indifferently even on the Top, excepting where Encampments seem to have been.

Here the Sun began to fail us, having but a small Glimmering of it over the Tops of higher Mountains ; the Evening drew on, my Company were sick, and having several Miles to go, according to *Welch* Computation, through unknown Paths, over almost unpassable Mountains, in a barren, unciviliz'd, and almost unpeopled Country, where very few understood *English* ; I say in

in this Condition, and under these Difficulties, I prevailed on them to ride something faster, which they were scarce able to do. At length we gain'd the other Side, and there heard the Barking of a Dog ; this rejoiced us not a little : An old Woman here directed us, as well as she could, in mix'd Words of *English* and *Welch*. It was no small Satisfaction to know we were in the Right Way ; on our Right Hand we had a few Enclosures, and some of them had good Crops of Corn, allowing for the Situation, &c. Here we entered a Lane, and a little Way further we found another House ; we enquired if they had any Drams ; a poor old Creature answered no, but a little further we should find a Publick House, where we might be furnished. We met a bare-footed Boy, who directed us to this House ; the People here spoke indifferent good *English* ; they sold nothing but Ale, which I got warm'd, and this raised my Company's Spirits equal to a Dram. Enquiring the Road, we parted with our Host ; after riding some dirty Lanes we came to *Llanibangle*, a Village our Friend at *Knighton* omitted in our Directions ; here was a Church, but no Tower or Steeple, and I believe no Bells ; here was a Fulling Mill at Work on Flannels, this and the Racks, were the most material Things in the Village, which consisted of five or six ordinary Houses. Leaving this Village, a Man there told us to keep the straight Road, which we did, and found ourselves brought by the Lane into enclosed Grounds ; here we were out of our Road, but following a Path, we found a House, where was a Mother and five Children bare-footed ; the good Matron directed

us the Road more by Signs than Words. The Word *Rosse* she repeated very oft, which I afterwards found was a Common, or green Plain. She told us that the *Rosse* would bring us to *Pena Pont*; however we got safe to the *Rosse*, which, as the Woman had told us, brought us to *Bridge-End*. This Village hath a good many pretty good Houses, (considering the Country;) here is a good Bridge over the River *Ithon*, which River rises in *Radnorshire*, and at this Place is large, rapid, and runs almost *South*. Now Night had begun her Sway over this Part of the Globe, but we proceeded without any Guide, which my Readers may think something odd; but the following Reason I suppose will satisfy them.

Employing a Guide here, and at this Time, might be attended with these bad Consequences; they might have taken us wrong, and, as we were but a few, robb'd and murder'd us, by the Assistance of an Acquaintance or two; add to this, they might have made such an Agreement even before our Faces, speaking a Language we did not understand, therefore we thought it more proper to enquire than to be guarded, tho' my Cousin continually begg'd to have a Guide. Another Reason was, that the *Welch* have an universal Opinion that the *English* Travellers ask the Road though they know it quite well, which Notion answered our End extremely well. After riding a Mile through dirty Lanes, which were exceeding dark, we came at *Llanbadern* to the River *Ithon* again, which here runs almost North-erly; its Turnings and Windings are so many between the Villages of *Bridge-End* and *Llanbadern*, which, as I said is but one Mile, yet I'm credibly

credibly inform'd it runs upwards of six to gain that much Ground ; from hence it passes on below the *Llandrindod Wells*, to a Village call'd *Dysart*, and empties itself into the *Wye*, about three Miles below that Village. In some Places, the Current is strong, deep, and large enough to bear Vessels of Burthen ; but the Descent being so great, the Navigation would be attended with great Difficulties on it, provided it were in a Country that could support such an Expence ; one Day's Rain making it overflow its Banks. It is well stored with Fish, Chub, Trout, Samlets, Roach, Dace, and Gudgeons, being very plentiful, and with a good Bait may be catch'd as many Fish as you please. I never had more Diversion of that Sort than at this River ; no one is molested, for 'tis too patient a Sport for the Natives, and turns to small Advantage to the Lord of the Manor. But to return ; at this Village is another Bridge over the *Ithon*, which having pass'd, we rose by *Llanbadern* Church, which is not the meanest, and hath a little Steeple ; from this Place, it being Night, though indeed the Stars were bright, and Moon rising, after enquiring the Road, we proceeded along dark Lanes for half a Mile, at the End of which we entered a large *Rosse* or green Common ; we here met a Man on Horseback, who gave us an imperfect Direction ; we follow'd the broad Road, which in a little Time separated into a great many small ones ; we follow'd one of these, which we soon lost. It was now almost Ten o'Clock. Let any one figure to himself the Condition we were in ; on a *Welch* Mountain in the Night, quite Strangers, nothing but Hills and Horses

be seen ; not knowing where to go, we here stopt. The Moon and Stars being our greatest Assistance, I could not forbear thinking on the following Lines, in the Poem on the *Creation* before-mentioned.

*For us the Moon in various Forms displays,
From various Heights above, her silent Rays ;
Changing, yet constant, and a useful Guide,
To mete the fleeting Hours, and Time divide :
Tho' pale and cool her borrow'd Beams descend,
How do they cheer the Night, and Man befriend.
For us the Stars with glitt'ring Lustre glow,
And dart their pure and subtle Beams below :
Ornaments ! whose piercing Light
Subdues the gloomy Horror of the Night.*

I say, let any one figure to himself our Condition, and he must conclude it quite melancholy ; however, we kept to the Left, and by the Light of the Moon and Stars, we saw a Wood, which we rode towards. Had it not been for these Lights, we must certainly have continued all Night on the Mountain. When we came near the Wood, we hallooed, and imagined we were answered, but, on repeating, we found it to be only our Echo ; however, we continued riding and calling, and at length were answered from the Wood. It happened that a Man (fortunately for us) was going to Bed, whom we persuaded to direct us to *Llandrindod*, which he told us was a Mile and a half ; tho' he had some Difficulty to persuade his Wife to let him attend us. Is is reasonable to suppose

we were much rejoiced, and gave him Six-pence, which was no small Sum to him. He told us it was a difficult Road, and being without Stockings or Shoes, he mounted behind Mr. *Jacome*, and on our saying we intended for the publick House, and enquiring how full it was, he told us that the House was full of Company, and that we were but a Quarter of a Mile from it, but to *Llandrindod* it was above a Mile ; and, continued he, if you cannot have Lodgings here, I can provide you some at a neighbouring House, with the Man who lived at this publick House last Year, (where perhaps our being might have been more satisfactory.) However we rode into the Yard, and enquired if we could have Lodgings ; we saw a great many Lights within, and the Company made no small Noise. Though we were so much fatigued, and promised an Answer immediately, yet we were favoured with waiting almost half an Hour, before we could be resolved ; at last the Landlady told us we might alight, and have good Accommodation. This was no Time to be inquisitive ; accordingly we alighted, dismiss'd our Guide, and, weary as we were, went into the House.

I shall be as exact as possible in describing every particular Thing, and relate every Occurrence, with as strict a Regard to Truth, as Minutes and Memory will enable me, without any Intention to expose the Actions of any one particularly ; but as Truth will oblige me to do Justice to all, I shall proceed thus,

We were introduced into a little nasty Room, by as nasty an old Woman, and were almost suffocated with Smoke. This old Creature got us

a little Shrub ; but a House in such Confusion, my Eyes never beheld : One cry'd, Cot rot you, why don't you fill the Mug ; another, the Devil is in the Woman, do you hear the Shentleman call ; one ran here, another there ; such a Noise and Confusion had some Simile with that of *Babel*. Supper being just serv'd in, we chose to have something where we sat : We procured some Mutton Chops, though the greatest Part of them was Skin : My Cousin bless'd herself, declaring she never saw any thing like it ; but, Circumstances considered, we were better than on a barren Mountain. While we were at Supper, we were interrupted by a Couple of lusty Girls, hauling a clumsy looking Fellow through our Room. We thought this something odd, and could scarce account for it, but, imagining they were Servants, and as I shall have frequent Occasion to speak of the whole Company more particularly, I shall say no more on that Head now. We finished a very bad Supper ; the Cheese was indifferent, the Bread scarce half baked, which, notwithstanding, these two Articles made the largest Share of our Supper ; the Butter bad ; Plates, Knives and Forks, enough to surfeit any ordinary Stomach ; the Ale was good ; the Wine indifferent ; the Cyder the same. Being much tired, (after drinking a Glass or two) we desired to be shewn to our Rooms, (having given the necessary Order about our Horses, Clothes, &c.) but were told, my Cousin could not lie in the Room they intended ; the Reason given to the contrary was, that she must have went thro' those modest young Ladies Room I have mentioned

tioned before. These, together with an old lecherous Fellow, which I shall describe, form'd so strong a Party, that notwithstanding we insisted on it, we were obliged to submit. Indeed had it been a whole Bed, Mr. *Jacome* and myself were resolv'd to have possess'd it ; but a single Woman being in it before, and my Cousin being of a condescending Temper, we dropp'd the Affair, tho' not without some Reluctancy. She lay in a Garret, because it had a Lock on the Door, which ours had not. Our Room was just large enough for a Bed, and to go on one Side, and at the Bottom of the same : The Bed was without Curtains ; we had a Coverlet, Blanket, and two Sheets, tho' they were wore almost to Tinder, and prodigious large Holes in them. Indeed my Cousin's Room was longer, but much colder. We resented this Usage, so that both our Landladies cry'd very much, that they were not able to prevent or remedy this Treatment : However we went to Bed, and being much tired, and not very curious, we slept soundly, notwithstanding the Fleas, (which were the most and largest I have seen) and some Fears of the Country Distemper.

Sunday July 8. We awaked at seven, and were obliged by our black Bedfellows to arise ; we talk'd loud and pretty much on the last Night's Usage, which made the *Cambrians* hear us ; our Bed was hard, which after Yesterday's Journey made us very stiff. My Cousin not being up, Mr. *Jacome* and myself walked to the Fountain, which is about three hundred Yards from the House, though both are on the same *Rosse* or Common ; which Land is of a black, soft, oozy

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Substance, for near a Foot deep, under which is a mixt Gravel ; the Surface makes good Peat, which is a Commodity cut in the Summer, and serves almost the whole County for Fuel in the Winter ; some is cut in large Squares to lay behind the Fire, others in narrow Lengths to burn in the Middle. The Ground is very even from the House to the Spring, which issues out of a Rock about seven Feet from the Ground ; on the other Side a small Valley or Channel, through which runs a Brook, which falls into the River *Ithon* below. The Spring is not enclosed with Building, but conveyed out of the Rock, by a Piece of Bark ; the Side of which Rock is covered with those Colours that generally arise from Mineral Waters. Adjoining to the Spring is a small Hut, for the Convenience of the People that draw the Water ; on the Left Hand is a great many Letters and Figures, almost unintelligible. The Place where the Water issues out is at the Top of the Rock, whose Substance is partly of the Slate Kind ; the Spring runs about one Pint and a half in a Minute ; and is better in proportion as the Weather is dry.

The earliest Account I could get of these Waters (which are partly of the *Scarborough* and *Cheltenham* Kind, though much preferable to either) was this : About Forty Years ago, a Gentleman in *England* being afflicted with the Scurvy, or some other dangerous Distemper, and having spent all his Fortune on Physicians to no Purpose, he came one Day to the Person he had employ'd most : Doctor, says he, I came to tell you that I have but one Guinea left, which I have brought with me, and as you have had a good deal of my Money,

Money, I beg you'd not fail telling me of something that may be of Service to me, if you can. Well, quoth the Doctor, and is it the last ; the very last ; are you sure 'tis the last Guinea ? The other answered in the Affirmative. Then, says the Doctor, sit down, give me the Guinea, and I'll do what I can for you. He sat down, when the Doctor told him, that some Years ago, in some Person's Library, he had read the following Story, which, continued he, I shall tell you ; and if you could be so fortunate to find the Well, I am satisfied it will cure you, provided the Story is true ; take the Guinea again, continued he, and God bless you with it. There was, says he, some Years ago, a Gentleman hunting in *Radnor* County on Foot, which is the Custom of the Country, and Running hard made himself hot and dry, and happening to find this Spring, he drank very plentifully of it, and set out again ; but being very warm, it soon operated, and obliged him to unbutton so oft, that he put off his Breeches and carried them in his Hand, and so let it discharge itself without Trouble or Interruption. This, continued the Doctor, was in a Manuscript, with a Discourse on the Virtues of the Water, which, if true, I'm satisfied will be of infinite Service to you ; for my Part I own I can do nothing more for you. I'm obliged to you, replied the Patient, but should be glad to know where this famous Spring is. I only know, return'd the Doctor, that it's somewhere in *Radnorshire*, and not many Miles from *Built in Brecknockshire*. The Gentleman attempted the Thing, had the good Fortune to find it, which made of him a perfect Cure.

However

However, from some Accident happening to the Gentleman, or thro' the Ignorance of the Natives, who know very little of any Art or Science more than those that are common to the *Indians*, it was scarcely known in *England* 'till within these few Years, and Accommodation being so exceeding bad, it almost discouraged the first Company's coming again; but the Waters being of so powerful and salutary a Nature, was the chief Motive of their Returning. This induced others, and last Year, 1743. not only the Inn, but every House round it, that had a spare Bed, had Company, and might have had much more; but more of this in its Place. The Water, as I said before, is partly of the *Cheltenham* Kind, tho' much preferable to it. A celebrated Physician, who examined and tortured the Water, gave us the following Account of its Composition: I found (says he) in it a large Quantity of Nitrous Salt, with some Alcalious Earth, Sulphur, and Steel; *Scarborough* and *Cheltenham* have some Nitre, in which this exceeds them: But the Quantity of Steel in this much more so, to which he attributes its Superiority, alledging that a Person may drink a much larger Quantity of it, and discharge it with less Difficulty. He says there is more Sulphur in *Cheltenham*, and consequently 'tis more fetid and disagreeably tasted. Thus far the Doctor.

It is of a greyish Colour, smells a little, is soft, and almost as agreeable to drink as fresh Water. People differ much in the Quantity they drink, some (especially the Natives) will swallow seven or eight Quarts, and a Gentleman who came from *Cheltenham* assur'd me, that this

Day

Day he drank ten Quarts, which was to be sure a very large Quantity.

My Method was generally this ; about seven o'Clock I drank a Pint of Water, and in a Quarter of an Hour it began to operate ; I then drank two more, and in a Quarter of an Hour after two Pints more, which I immediately discharg'd, about the same Quantity by Urine as by Stool. I never had the least Nausea, Gripes, or Lowness of Spirits, that I have frequently had in other purgative Cases ; the Discharge is so easy, that it often went off insensibly. It is necessary to keep warm during the Operation ; and therefore in this expos'd cold Part of the World, the Heat of Summer is the best, when the Water is more pure and unmix'd, the Beginning and whole Month of *July* consequently proper. Some of our Family (if I may so call them) drank it warm'd, and in the House, which may provoke the Operation something, but makes it more nauseous ; it empties the Bowels, gives a good Appetite, easy Digestion ; and notwithstanding so noisy and unseasonable a Place, (as will be seen in the following Sheets) and other Inconveniencies, I never slept better in my Life.

In all leprous, scrophulous, and scorbutick Cases, they are a sovereign Remedy ; in hemorrhoidal, spermatick, and urinary Cases, hardly to be match'd : And it is assured, by those who have experienced all, that they exceed both *Scarborough* and *Cheltenham*, in all inflammatory Cases, in what Part or Kind soever ; in nephritick and gouty Cases, they are almost infallible. A Gentleman of Veracity, who happened to be here this Day, informed me, That he has been at

Cheltenham a considerable Time, and found little or no Benefit by those Waters, (his Disorder being the Gout) and came from thence a Week ago, who having been here but three or four Days, he assures me, that he has found his Dis-temper much remov'd ; that he intends going Home To-morrow, which he did. In paraly-tick, hypochondriack, and hysterick Disorders, it would be of great Service, and in all chronical Cases, provided a proper Regimen were used, it not ruffling the Patient so much as other Purgatives do. But, it is a Fault here, as at all other Places of this Sort, for the Company to live too high and irregular. But, as I have said nothing in vermicular Cases, I shall relate the following Experiment : A Man who liv'd at *Llanbaddern* (a Place already mentioned) having for five or six Years been afflicted with a violent Pain in his Stomach, especially when either lying down or sitting, after enduring it so very long, he was persuaded to drink these Waters, which the third day brought from him a Worm which measured seven Feet six Inches in Length ; the Diameter of his Back, for near a Foot in Length, was equal to the Breadth of a large Thumb-Nail, the Colour brownish, and the Back a little speck-led ; it was alive when it was discharged ; but this Man carried it Home with him (which was the Reason I did not see it) perfectly eas'd of his Pain. Tho' this Thing may seem almost incre-dible, I must beg Leave to assure the Reader, that this Affair happened but a Fortnight before I came there, and was attested by too many cre-dible Witnesses to admit a Scruple of the Truth.

A Friend of mine was afflicted with the Scurvy so bad, that (being a facetious Limb of a Libertine) he declar'd he must either go to *Llandrindod*, or the D——l. Though he liv'd a little irregular, he was cur'd in seven Days, and return'd the Day after our Arrival. Give me leave to mention one great Cure more, and I have done: I declare I'm no prejudic'd Person, nor have any great Reason to enlarge on our satisfactory Living there; but as it happened, my Observations may be of some Service to my Readers, therefore I shall give them, tho' briefly: An old Man who lives near the Spring, and from whose Mouth I had this Account, told me that he was ill for several Years, and so windy and costive, that his Life was a Burthen to him: He apply'd to several Apothecaries and Physicians, who gave him no Relief; he at last took to these Waters, of which he drank twenty-three Pints, which brought from him an Excrement, that he assur'd me was so hard, that he could make little or no Impression on, when stamp'd with the Heel of his Shoe. This Man is upwards of seventy Years old, says it was twenty-four Years ago, has drank the Water frequently after, and hath never had a sick Day since that Time, and looks, tho' very grey, the most healthy Man I've seen of his Age.

It may be imagin'd, that I'm some Dabbler in Physick, or have some private End to serve; but I declare the Imagination (if there be such a one) to be wrong, and at the same Time say, I've no great Regard for the Profession; certainly Physicians were design'd for restoring and preserving the Health of the Body, as the Clergy

that of the more refin'd Part of Humanity ; but, by woeful Experience it is found, that the present Practice of too many of both, has brought the Professions in too little Esteem.

These Accounts of the Cures of the Water, I have had from good Hands, who have had nothing in View but declaring the Truth. I shall now continue my Journal. Above the Spring is a Hedge, behind which we walk'd, and work'd off our Physick, (if I may so call it) which was not so agreeable, or operated so well, as the following Days. At the upper End of this Hedge we found ourselves on a steep Bank, at the Bottom of which runs the Brook already mentioned ; on the other Side were three *Welch* Girls, who had no Hedge, or any Retreat when a Motion offered ; we had only the Valley between us, and were looking round the Country ; at this Juncture one of the Girl's Water began to operate, and I own we were so rude to stay and observe her Confusion, and Means of extricating herself : Immediately the two others stepp'd before her, and up she turn'd, when having scarce done, one of the other, was in the same Condition ; and so continu'd alternately 'till we were oblig'd by Modesty and Compassion, to walk back, perfectly pleas'd at the humorous Event.

We walk'd home, during which Time I had Leisure to look round the Country, and observe what Sort of a Situation this was more exactly. The Common, on which the House and Spring are, is enclos'd on the South by a Hill almost cover'd with Under-Wood, the West by a small Wood, and beyond it high Mountains ; the North by some plain Land, descending to the River

ver *Ithon*. Beyond that River the Ground rises with Mountains, which seem heap'd on one another 'till they are above the Clouds ; and when the Wind is in that Quarter, it must be very cold in the Winter. On the East 'tis plain for some considerable Way, and beyond it are the same Tokens of its being *Wales* : But, to speak ingeniously, this Place has a much better Aspect than I expected, and much preferable to many Places I've seen in that Principality.

A great many Horses, other Cattle, and Sheep, feed on the Hills and Rocks, (tho' I saw not one Goat;) the Meads by the River produce good Crops of Hay, tho' often overflowed. The Hills indeed answer a great many useful and beneficial Ends.

It has been a Matter of Controversy, whether such a Number of great Hills rose out of Chaos, or were tumbled together in the great Deluge. A great Critick and Chronologer, after examining the History of the Christians, and likewise the *Chinese* Account, observes, that the *Chinese* say the World has subsisted 60,000 Years : He continues, that perhaps the Christians will object, that how is it possible, that any Records could be preserved of the Time before the Flood, except such as were saved in *Noah's Ark* ; since that universal Inundation swept away all the rest of Mankind, and must needs utterly efface all their Writings and Monuments. To this he answers, (for he was neither a Christian or *Chinese*) that the Christians cannot prove this Inundation to be universal, nor even out of their own Scriptures, which (he says) he had narrowly examined in this Point, and finds the Deluge limited to that Part of the Earth which was inhabited at that Time,

Time, which verbal Limitation supposes the whole Globe was neither inhabited nor drown'd, or else they must allow a Tautology in Scriptures ; besides, it is evident from the Bible, concerning Noah's Preaching one hundred and twenty Years before the Flood, that this was but a particular Deluge, inflicted as a Punishment on that obdurate and impenitent Nation where he lived. I think it must certainly be as the above judicious Author suggests ; but be the Origin of these stupendous Mounts when it will, their Appearance are greatly surprising to an Inhabitant of a plain Country, and differ all in Shape, Soil and Fertility. As I have digressed so far, I can't make a safe Retreat better than with the following Quotation from the Poem already mentioned, in admiring the Works of our infinite great Creator.

*By Chance, and not to serve a gracious End,
Do then th' exalted Hills aloft ascend ;
When the thin Vapours, by the rising Tops,
Condens'd, distil around in lucid Drops,
With genial Moisture, swell th' sprouting Seeds,
And cloath with blooming Herbs the florid Meads.*

*When to their hanging Slopes, and craggy Brows,
Each murmuring Brook, and pouring River owes
The Source, from whence in crooked Roads below,
Its fruitful and refreshing Currents flow.*

*When on their sunny Sides the ripening Corn,
Delightful waves, in greater Plenty borne ;
Or clust'ring Vines with stronger Vigour shoot,
And pay our Culture with a richer Fruit.*

*When from their tow'ring Heights our Eyes command
The wide-extended Tracts of varied Land ;*

Survey

Survey at once whole Provinces around,
 With lib'ral Nature's beauteous Blessings crown'd:
 Numberless Prospects, which attract the Sight,
 Scene after Scene, and still with fresh Delight.

When on their steepy Surface spring profuse
 A thousand Growths, of salutary Use;
 Which spreading Lawns beneath refuse to bear,
 Distinct in Soil, in Heat, and ambient Air.

What Weakness then, and Folly Man betrays,
 Whene'er thy Works be questions, or thy Ways
 More clearly found, all beauteous wise and good,
 The nearer search'd, the better understood.

The Beauty of this Poem is a sufficient Excuse for my inserting it. I shall now go on with describing: In the Midst of this Rosse or Common, formerly stood a small thatch'd Cottage, which belonged to a neighbouring Gentleman, whose Name is Jones. In Process of Time, the Wells being more frequented, he was persuaded to build a small Stone House, consisting of two small Rooms below, and two above; but the Workmen not understanding their Busines, each Room below (for there are no Fire-Places above) is so smoaky, it is almost impossible to sit in them with Fire, the one of these is the Kitchen, a nasty dirty Hole, as e'er I saw, the other is a little Hole likewise, which is a Thorough-fare into the new Building, and is intolerably smoak'd by the Fire in the Kitchen, which is made of Wood.

Last Year 1743, he built an Addition to it; this hath only one Room on the Ground Floor, which is an indifferent good Parlour, and one Third of this Building is taken up with a large Passage

Passage and Staircase, (which Room is much wanted) all the Company being obliged to be together in the Parlour, or that smoaky Thorough-fare already mentioned. There are three or four little Rooms upon the second Floor of the new Building, and two Garrets above ; over the old Building are two Rooms, in one of which are three Beds bad enough, but no Garret over it ; the House is so contrived by Mr. Jones's Order, that provided the Wells should fail, it may be converted into a Meeting-House, he being lately made a Proselyte to the Presbyterian Sect by his Wife, who is Daughter to a Director of that Persuasion in *Gloucester*. The Front of the House, I mean the last Building, is fashed and plaister'd ; they have but one Stable, and that a very bad one, and the little Hay that's in it is no better. You are obliged to have your Horses turn'd upon high enclosed Land very bleak and barren, (indeed they may have the good Fortune to go in a Mead by the River Side,) or lie in the Stable without Straw ; the old thatch'd House would make two or three indifferent good Stables, but the Landlord is covetous, and the Tenants are indolent in this as in every think else ; here was a small Enclosure round the House, but no Garden ; behind the House is a small Necessary one, where the Ladies used to retire, and about twelve Yards below that, on a gradual Descent, is a small Spring. Here they fetch their Water, boil all their Victuals, (which is a manifest Instance of the Nastiness of the *Welch*) notwithstanding in the Yard, and much nearer than this, to the Kitchen Door, is a Rivulet of very good Water, which runs

from

from the Mountain above. Here they water Horses, and will not be persuaded to use it in the House for Tea or any thing else, except Washing, as it is a near and easy Descent to the other Water from the Place above-mentioned : Very probably we drank Part of what the Ladies drank before ; for you are to observe, that finding great Inconveniences in this one Bog-House, we procured a Ladder, and placed it down in the Paddock for the Use of the Male Kind at the other Door, and indeed all round about it ; if there fell a little Rain (the Ground being of a soft ouzy Substance) it would be exceeding dirty, but when dry, and little Wind, 'twas pleasant enough.

But to proceed : Being arriv'd at the House, we prepared for Breakfast, having brought some Coffee, Tea, and Sugar with us, which every one ought to do that expects to drink any at *Llandrindod*. We found several Ladies in the Parlour : After making our Congees, I walk'd round the Room, (this being *Sunday*) and found on the great Table a Volume of *Shakespear's Plays*, just laid down, and open at a Scene in *Henry the IVth*. I found no other Furniture, except Chairs and three Tables, but a Book of Songs and News-Papers. We breakfasted in the Middle of the great Parlour, having but one Tea Spoon, a little Toast, a deal of Butter, but no Cream or Milk. I took out my Pen and Ink, and upon our Table took down my Notes ; the Ladies seem'd to observe me much, which made me do it more secretly for the future.

Before I go further, I think it will be proper to say what Company Fate had brought us into ; the first I shall mention was a *South Welsh Family*,

mily, whose Name I shall call *Slip Phli*; of this Name was a Father, Mother, Son, and Daughter; the Father was generally called Captain, and I've Reason to think, from his Language in Behaviour, he has been a *Bristol* Sailor. He is a surly, opinionated, lecherous, and ignorant old Fellow, and takes a particular Delight in turning every Thing into an obscene ludicrous Meaning; he would willingly be thought a great Man, do Things grand, but would chuse and endeavour to do it at others Expence. He had a Chair with a single Horse, in which his Wife and Daughter rode; 'twas common to see him dress in an old blue Coat, dirty Shoes and Stockings, an old Hat, a good-natur'd Straw-colour'd Whig, and a Scarlet Waistcoat, with a Gold Lace on't as broad as Three Fingers. Thus much of old *Slip Phli*, which taken together is an odd Description, tho' very true; his Wife was a jolly, handsome, sensible Woman, and I think I saw her guilty but of one or two little Actions during our Stay, which I shall insert in its Place. Their Son was a living Character of Squire *Sapskull*, in the *Honest Yorkshire Man*, about twenty-two Years old; he was a lusty young Fellow, and had Courage (or if you please *Welch* Madness) enough to quarrel with a Lady, or beat an Hostler; I intend calling him Squire *Slip Phli*; his Sister was a modest, pretty behav'd young Lady, and followed the Precepts of her Mother, as the Son did those of his Father: So much for the Family of *Slip Phli*.

Mr. *Van'se* was a Middle, or rather South *Welchman*, who had with him only his Wife and a Widow Gentlewoman, whose Name was *Lob-luck*;

luck ; Mr. *Van'se* was a well-grown personable Man, about twenty-eight ; Mrs. *Van'se* was one of those unfortunate Women that marry ungrateful Fellows for Love ; he had with her a very good Fortune ; she was young, and by him had only one Child ; Mrs. *Lobluck* was in Mourning for her late Husband, she was about Forty. Mr. *Hen's Pest*, the only *English* Person in the House but ourselves, was about Sixty, in the Commission of the Peace, and I take him to be a good-natur'd honest Man.

From Middle *Wales* we had, I verily believe, three Maids, their Names *Sadvie*, who came here more for Recreation than Recovery of Health ; but I have been inform'd it was more for Husbands than either ; two of these I mention'd tumbling through our Room, with the young 'Squire *Slip Phli* in Tow. Be it remark'd, it was these young Ladies, if I may so call them, (their Father being one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace) that objected to my Cousin's going through their Room, in which old and young *Slip Phli* lay ; their Father turn'd them out of Doors last Year, for staying so long at these Wells ; one of them I find is married since. This was all our Company, except an old Woman from *North Wales*, who was an old, insinuating Go-between, whose Name was *Winifred* : They all, except Mr. *Hen's Pest*, had a natural *Welch* Twang, though they pretended they did not understand that Language, excepting Mr. *Van'se*.

By this Time my Readers may consider what a desirable Company we were blessed with : I will give you my Word I was in a longing Condition to be gone from them ; no conceal-

ing Bankrupt, or unfortunate Merchant, thrown into Goal, was in more Anxiety at the Looks of long-confined Debtors, who demanded their Entrance Money, than we at the Thoughts of Futurity with these *Cambrian* Mountaineers : By this Reflection it may be supposed that I am guilty of Partiality, or ignorant of the true Character of *Welch* Gentry ; but I must beg leave to pronounce such a Supposition groundless ; I know those Gentry have a good Character, and I know they truly deserve it ; therefore it only remains that I say, with Justice and Reason, that these were of the *Would-be* Sort.

All our Company went to *Llanbadern* Church, except Mrs. and Miss *Slip Phli*, Mrs. *Van'se*, and *Winifred*. We having breakfasted and dress'd, thought it too late and far to go and hear a *Welch* Sermon ; but upon consulting our Landlord, we understood that we might be soon enough at Mr. *Jones*'s Meeting-House, which he shewed us down below on the same *Rosse* ; accordingly we went down, and two or three People coming at that Juncture at the Door, we followed them in.

The Building is as large as an ordinary Barn ; it is new, and raised at the above Gentleman's Expence ; at the East End of it is the Pulpit, under that is Mr. *Jones*'s Pew, the only one there, all the Congregation besides setting on Benches ; we went to the West End, and sat down ; they were then singing a *Welch* Psalm, in the most doleful Tune I ever heard, the Clerk pronounced the Words in a Tone almost as disagreeable ; having finished the Singing, which was very long, we all stood up, and the Preacher having delivered

delivered his Text, both in *English* and *Welch*, he continued and finished his Discourse in the latter Tongue. He was a young Man, and teaches School in this Place ; as to the Sermon, I understood but little of it, though, verily I think, that provided an *English* Curate deserves Thirty Pounds *per Ann.* a *Welch* one does Sixty, if the Sermons were of the same Number and Length : I declare I thought sometimes he would have burst some of his inward Vessels, or make his Throat so sore that he would not be able to speak in a Fortnight. On my Right Hand were two Boys, who had the Itch abominably ; one of them underwent a great Mortification, for his Fellow-Sufferer, every time I looked that Way, prevented his scratching, by saying I observed him ; in about twenty Minutes the *Welch*-man concluded, and came down from the Pulpit, which Place was immediately supplied by a Brother of the Justice's, at which Time came in that Gentleman and his Lady. The *Domine*, after wiping his Face, with a devout Aspect told us, in *English*, that from *Revelations*, *Chap. iii. Verse 1.* he had taken his Text. He advanced, that it was the Aim and only View of a great Part of the World to live only to a Name ; this he frequently repeated, that they had not that inward Feeling of the Spirit, which Christians ought to have. Some, continued he, come to hear the Word of God for Form's Sake, others for Interest, and some out of Curiosity, or, what is worse, to see and be seen, and make Games and Observations ; but he desired us all, to hold fast the Faith, and not live deceptively to a Name only. After a long Prayer, in which he particularly prayed

prayed for the Royal Family, he finished, to my great Satisfaction, considering my two neighbouring Boys. Indeed I expected to have heard a deal lower Language, and the Performance every Way worse. Most of the Flock had little Horles at the Door, which they mounted, and rode away full Speed. We walk'd home, and found ourselves ready for Dinner before the Return of our Church People ; one of our Land-ladies inform'd us, for there was two, that the Company desired we would drink separate from them, which gave us no Uneasiness ; we imagined that our talking up Stairs procured us this Mortification, as they were pleased to imagine it.

In about half an Hour our Company came Home ; the young Squire carried the Ladies with his Arms round their Legs, from the Chairs into the House ; Mr. *Slip P bli* and Family din'd with a Countryman of theirs, who lodg'd in the Neighbourhood ; Mrs. *Lobluck* sat at the Head of the Table at which we all din'd ; we had four or five Dishes of Meat indifferently dress'd, no Garden-stuff but a few Greens, which were boil'd almost black, a Couple of Fowls roasted, but the Liver and Gizard were thrown on the Dunghill, which the Cook thought useless ; our Plates, Knives and Forks, were quite black with using ; our Table Linnen dirty ; our other Dishes of Meat, besides the Fowls, were a Piece of Beef boil'd, a Shoulder of Mutton roasted, a Bit of Veal and Bacon, and two Sorts of Cheese ; our Bread was the same as last Night : We being so blameably complaisant to sit low at Table, our good-natur'd Company favour'd us with cooling our Meat for us,

us, and indeed our Case for some Time was like that of *Tantalus*. The Miss *Sadvies* told us they had an exceeding good Sermon delivered by a genteel young Clergyman, but the Text and Subject they had (reasonably) forgot: These Things they remembered, that a young Gentleman in a pearl'd-colour'd Coat, white Waistcoat and Stockings, and red Breeches, had ogled their Sister *Tythe*, (which was the eldest, about thirty-four) all the Time of divine Service, which pleased the old Maid to that Degree, that she almost thought her last Prayer had prevail'd. They observ'd that there was a full Congregation; but that Miss *Thomas*'s Hoop was too little, Miss *Edwards*'s Cap came too forward, Miss *Richards* they acknowledg'd would have been a pretty Girl, if her Hair had been curl'd like their own. A great many more Observations of this Sort were delivered by Miss *Ariam Sadvie*, who is the most affected, proud, and handsome featur'd of the Three. Mr. *Van'je* took a great deal of Trouble with this affected Creature, and made himself a great deal of satisfactory Meriment, with their ridiculous Nonsense, when his good-natur'd, genteel, generous, and much more sensible Wife, sat by, without having the least Notice taken of her by the Husband, whom she had rais'd from the Ground.

Mrs. *Lobluck* said little, but eat as much as any of the rest, some of which swallow'd more than any Country Plowman; Mrs. *Van'je* said little, tho' to the Purpose, with the greatest Condescension, and without Affectation; her Husband made no small Noise for Sauce, &c. for a Cucumber he had bought. Old *Winy* talk'd in her

her usual Phrase, on an obscene Subject to Mr. *Van'se*; we had no Grace before or after Dinner, and we drank separate, according to the Company's Desire: I forgot to say Mr. *Hen's Pest* behav'd very well during this Scene. Instead of Church in the Afternoon, our Company went to the Lodgings of the Gentleman who Mr. *Slip Phli* and Family din'd with: Mr. and Mrs. *Van'se*, Mr. *Hen's Pest*, and Mrs. *Lobluck*, rode in two Chairs; the Miss *Sadvies* not being ask'd to ride as those before-mention'd, chose to walk rather than ride on Horse-back, and having on their best Cloaths, they tuck'd up to the Knees, it being a little dirty. This I can with Security say, that their Legs were handsomer than their Faces; we watch'd them down the Common, and saw them fatigu'd in the Dirt, which was no small Mortification to their Pride. About half an Hour after came three young Gentlemen, and as many young Ladies. One of the Gentlemen, whose Name was *Percy*, and whose Uncle was lately High Sheriff of this County, was afterwards our particular Friend; all the rest were Water-Drinkers: One of these Gentlemen I had formerly known in *Worcester*. Our Room being now clear, this good-natur'd Company was so kind to drink Tea with us, which while we were about, a Gentleman rode to the Door, which happened to be a Countryman of ours, and a Clergyman. We congratulated each other on our Meeting, and having finish'd Tea, we all walk'd together (Mr. *Percy* being acquainted with our Parson) to the Spring: Mr. *Percy* promised us the Favour of conducting us on the Morrow to the next Market-Town, that is, *Built in*

in Brecknockshire, which we were obliged to him for. One of our Ladies sitting down on the Rock opposite to the Well, where I had this Morning seen a *Welchman* picking the Vermin from the Scabs of his Wife's Head, this I told her of, which made her arise with no small Concern: After viewing the Spring, and hearing a Welch Scold, about drawing the Water, we walk'd back to the House, (this was the most agreeable Company we met with during our Stay at Llandrindod) where being just arrived, we were alarmed with the Noise of some Company at the Gate: Curiosity prompting us to see who it was, we found it to be a Lady, the Relict of a *Welch* Baronet, by whom she had a great many Children, and the same that saved her Husband from Ruin, as mention'd in a modern Pamphlet, intituled *The Life of Jonathan the Second*. Her Ladyship, whose Name I shall call *Sillimaw*, is since married to a Clergyman, whose Name is *Snot John*, he was here with her, and I've been informed, that notwithstanding Mr. *Snot John* married her within fourteen Days after the Baronet's Decease, he almost came too late. (This is Country Discourse). With them was a Daughter of the Baronet's, by this Lady, about eighteen Years old; they had with them only two Servants, and before they entered the Gate, Mr. *Snot John* enquired, in the Tone of a Superior, whether her Ladyship had taken Care for a Bed at Mr. *Jones*'s, (knowing there were none with us;) her Ladyship answered, no; it's a very fine Case, replied the Husband; Madam, continued he, I insist that you ride up this Moment to be satisfied in that Affair. Her Ladyship immediately, with

seeming good Humour, obey'd ; (for what now signified her Title ; and 'tis frequently the Case of those Women, who demean themselves to marry low, unworthy, Men : It's a general Observation, that the worst Husbands are raised by their Wives, or some other Means, from Obscurity, who bring with them those base Seeds of degenerate Nature, which Time and Enjoyment is not able to destroy ;) and rode up the Common, together with her Daughter and Servants, and these last sneered much at the Insolence of the Husband, and Condescension of the Wife. Mr. *Snot John* in the mean Time alighted, and walk'd into the House, where he regaled with a Glass to our Admiration. He is of a dark Complexion, about Forty, has been gay, but behav'd quite well afterwards : His Lady is about the same Age, not very handsome, but agreeable enough. '

The Daughter, as I said before, is about Eighteen, of a fair Complexion, her Features good, her Shape and Air very agreeable, her Behaviour the most commendable of all our Ladies ; she wrote a small Poem on these Wells, which her Modesty prevented my Readers seeing. It seems her Father, Sir *Vidad Sillimaw*, spent a large Share of his Estate, and left his Lady a greater Legacy of Manhood than Discretion and Oeconomy. But to proceed, while her Ladyship was gone, our other Company not being return'd, Mr. *Percy*, our Clergyman, and ourselves, sat down to Supper, after which we were quite merry, 'till Mr. *Percy* and the Parson, who lay at that Gentleman's House, left us, which was at Nine o'Clock.

We

We spent the Remainder of the Evening in the little Room where we supped, with a Gentleman from *Herefordshire*: This was one of the most sensible Men I had seen here; while we were very merrily enjoying ourselves, old *Slip Phli* came into our Room with a News Paper, in his Hand; he ask'd me to read it, but made a Noise with his Comments and Reflections, something like those of cunning and witty News Paper Writers: To our Wish he left us when I had done. We parted with our Company, they lying at other Houses, and went to Bed at Eleven o'Clock, an Hour much too late for this Day; we slept indifferently well, Circumstances considered.

We arose at Seven o'Clock, on *Monday, July* the 9th, walk'd to the Well; I drank five Pints with more Ease than Yesterday, and work'd it off in a Place the Parson directed us to; it is in a large Field behind a small Wood, between which are a great many Birch Trees laid horizontally, which heretofore serv'd for a Hedge, but now for our Design exactly.

We came home, and found our House in an Uproar; the Miss *Sadvies*, who had emptied their Bodies, were waiting for Breakfast, out of Complaisance to her Ladyship, who was not come down from her Lodgings; indeed any Person, of a right Way of Thinking, cannot well blame these noisy Girls, considering their Condition at this Juncture: Some Time after came the Lady, &c. Her Ladyship was, we may suppose, serv'd first, and there continued a Noise who should be served next; the *Sadvies* hectored and scolded the poor Women our Landladies, who return'd the Ribaldry in the same Cant and Stile: Dur-

ring the Clamour, I found Means, unperceived, to convey away the Toast and Butter they waited for.

When we were at Breakfast, came in our Parson ; he joined us at Breakfast, and assured us Mr. *Percy* would be here in an Hour or two, and escort us to *Built*. He gave us several necessary Hints relating to the People and Country, and also inform'd us of the Wells above, which I shall describe in its proper Place, he having been here several Times. At Eleven Mr. *Percy* came, when we all mounted; the Parson rode towards *Montgomeryshire*, where his Business lay, and we towards *Built* aforesaid. We rode over Mountains, Hills, and plain Commons, for about three *English* Miles, with Prospects of good Valleys on the Right and Left, when we entered some enclosed Grounds. The Hedges were most of Birch, and so large, that in short they were no Fence at all. We here met a Man with a Sledge or Car, on which he had a Cask of Ale, drawn by one Horse ; this is the common Way here of transporting Goods from one Place to another : The Man told Mr. *Percy*, in *Welch*, that he was going to *Dysart* Wake, a Village about two Miles off: Here we intended to call as we returned. My Horse happened to lose a Shoe, though fortunately near a Blacksmith's Shop ; it retarded our Journey something ; the Smith I found had been a Seaman during the late Queen's Wars, gave a good Account of his Voyages, and seem'd to have the true and undaunted Spirit which is inseparable from a *British* Tar ; his Wife looked badly, which notwithstanding, she was obliged to strike with the great Hammer ;

she

she, like other *Welsh* Women, bound her *Head* to prevent its Aching. We rode on ; the Hills still continuing, from one of these we saw a large Opening, between two Mountains ; that Opening was full of a thick Fog ; this Mr. *Percy* told us arose from the large and rapid River *Wye*, which ran through that deep Valley. Riding about another Mile, we came to the Banks of that River, just below where the *Ithon*, before-mentioned, empties itself into it : Its Course was here incommoded much, by large Rocks and Stones, which with the Rapidity of the Stream, made a great foaming Noise. This rocky Bottom continued about half a Mile ; after that it glided with a smooth though swift Stream to *Built*, to which Place we had it on our Right Hand ; here is good Pasture, Meads, and Arable Land, provided the River keeps within Bounds, but Inundations are very frequent, which make a Harvest very precarious. Here is a good deal of Wood growing, especially on the West Side the River. This River we passed, over a large wooden Bridge, at the other End of which is the Town of *Bealt*, *Buelth*, *Built*, or, as the Inhabitants pronounce it, *Beelth*.

It is situate on the Western Bank of the River *Wye*, which here divides the Counties of *Radnor* and *Brecknock*, the Town being in the last mention'd County : It had formerly a Castle, which was demolish'd by *Rice ap Griffith*, but rebuilt by the *Mortimers* and *Brajes* ; scarce any Remains of this Castle are now to be seen. In 1690 a Fire consum'd that Part of the Town next the River ; but good Part of it is now rebuilt. The Town now consists of three or four indifferent good

good Streets, some Part pav'd, especially at the Market-Place. It happening to be Market-Day, (having had something to eat) we went to see the Town ; there was a very large Concourse of People, and a great deal of Goods bought and sold. The Business is entirely carried on in the *Welch* Language : We walk'd thro' all the Streets, and though they were throng'd much, we could rarely hear a Word of *English* : The Cryer's Method is this ; first putting off his Hat, he says O yes thrice, goes on in the *Welch* Tongue, and concludes in *English*, with God pless the Kinke and the Lord of the Manor. At the upper End of the Town is Mr. *Prothero*'s, a Justice of the Peace for this County : The Church is very large, but some Way from the Town ; and being told there was nothing curious, and our Time being short, we did not go to it. Mr. *Percy* having Estates in both Counties, and being universally known, he was saluted continually with a 'Potbe'itbe, Mr. *Percy*, &c. Indeed a great many had some Affair or other to ask his Advice about. The Trade of this Town and County round is knitting coarse Stockings ; *Monday* is the Market for Cattle, &c. and *Saturday* for Corn, though I believe this last is a small one ; a Bushel of Oatmeal at this Time, I could have bought for 13 d. and other Provisions in Proportion. Old *Slip Phli* engaged me to buy him some Paper for necessary Uses at the Wells, but I remember I could scarce get Two-penny-worth in Town ; therefore that Commodity was not among the cheap and plentiful ones. Our Inn was the *Crown*, and I believe the best in Town : One of our Company cutting the Bread, found

found in it a handsome Chew of Tobacco ; but we could not with Justice blame our Landlord, because it was bought of a Baker, and the same Sort we had at *Llandrindod*, i. e. white, good-looking Bread, but not half baked : We had three or four well-dress'd Dishes, and din'd heartily ; (it seems the Justices of this County had a Meeting here this Day.) Some of my delicate Readers may be surpriz'd at our eating after the Sight of the Tobacco ; but be it remembered, that we were in *Wales*, and must do as well as we could, and frequently put up with a few such Trifles as these. Here was a Person who keeps an Inn in *Brecknockshire*, where is a Bath much frequented, and he told me that he had then a great deal of Company : Indeed every one here condemn'd much the Management of our House at *Llandrindod*. We having drank a Glass or two, set forward, intending to take the Wake in our Way home. Our Landlord was very obliging, waited on us to the Horse-Block, and offer'd his Service to buy any thing we would send for, if we removed to a private House, as we then intended. We rode out at the Back Door, and came a nearer Way to the Bridge, which is built upon seventeen Piles, and appears to be a very strong one. The Bridge here hath been carried down by Floods in the Memory of Man three times, the last of which was in 1740. It was rebuilt at the Expence of both Counties, and notwithstanding it cost a considerable Sum, they have it built but two Inches higher than before, and after the next large Flood, they may probably be at the same extraordinary Expence, which might have been prevent-

ed for a small Sum when building. We continued the same Road for three Miles, where nothing remarkable happening, we turned to the Left Hand, directing our Course to *Dysart* aforesaid. After riding through a great many enclosed Grounds, we came to the *Ithon* River, already mentioned, which a Shower or two of Rain had made almost Bank full. At the End of a Mead, by this River Side, were a Company dancing in a Barn. They were about nine Couple, genteelly dress'd, and all People of Fortune and Fashion, and I may with Security say, the best and most active Country Dancers I ever saw. We observed that the Men were gay and genteel, handsome and well-shaped ; the Women were genteel, without Pride ; modest, without Affection ; beautiful, without Art ; and free, without Fondness : The generous Hand of Nature appeared in every Face, unspotted with the artful Follies of this degenerate Age. It gave me a strong Idea of the Happiness and Simplicity of the ancient *Britons*, before the *Roman* and other Corruptions overwhelm'd the now refined Part of the Island (as we are pleased to term it :) But these Zealots for Liberty maintained their Independency long, and under this happy Government they continue (and may they never end) their innocent Customs, Manners, and Recreations. A favourite Dance (Bumpers 'Squire *Jones*) I saw them perform with the greatest Spirit, Order, and Exactness. Mr. *Percy* gave us a Sign to follow him, which we did ; accordingly he lead us through a throng'd Lane to the Church-Yard, which, though large, was filled with People of almost all Ages and Qualities.

Near

Near this was a little House, where we put off our Riding Coats, &c. The Church is a strong Building, and pretty large, against the Tiles of which were a Dozen lusty young Fellows playing at Tennis, and as many against the Steeple at Fives. They play'd very well, but spoke (as indeed almost every one else did) in the *Welch* Tongue. On one Side the Church were about six Couple dancing to one Violin, and just below three or four Couple to three Violins, whose Seat was a Tomb Stone. In short, the whole was something whimsically odd. We here saw common Games of Ball against the sacred Pile, and there the Musick playing over the Bones of the deceased. We were in the Middle of a merry noisy Throng, without knowing their Language, or indeed almost any Thing they said. We here found Mr. *Hen's Pest*, Mr. *Snot John*, old and young *Slip Phli*, who came on purpose to see this Wake. Strolling all together, we met with a Woman that had a young Child in her Arms ; Mr. *Snot John*, being very facetious at this Time, asked her whose Child it was ; she answer'd in *English*, that it was not her's ; Will you sell it, good Woman, returned he ? Ay, if you'll buy it, replied the Woman. He immediately took out a Guinea, and offered her for it ; but the Woman seeming to think him in Jest, we stept behind her, and told her the contrary, and that he wanted a Child. Will you take care of it, said the Woman ? I will, replied he : In short the Jest was carried so far, that the Woman followed us to a Publick House, and seem'd to insist on his Offer ; but on Enquiry, we found it to be her own Child ; of this Mr. *Snot John*, made a Handle, reproaching

her for her Barbarity to her own Offspring, and by this Means got clear of his Bargain.

I having mentioned to him the Dancing in the Barn, Mr. *Snot John* and the young Squire insisted on going there; here the first of these begg'd my Cousin to dance, which she did, tho' with Reluctance. The incomparable Company afforded them all imaginable Assistance (their Method being quite odd:) Squire *Slip Phli* stood by, stuffing his Belly with Cherries, he had bought for the Ladies; our Dancers made their Complements, and then we returned to the Publick House, where between old and young *Slip Phli*, and Mr. *Snot John*. (my Cousin, Mr. *Percy* and Mr. *Jacome* being gone again into the Church-yard) was a Dispute, or rather Concurrence on a Subject too obscene for a Man of common Modesty to repeat: In a little Time our Dancers came through our Room, and notwithstanding they behav'd so civil to them before, our Company could not forbear their ludicrous Talk even to them. The Evening beginning to draw on, we prepared for our Return Home; and calling at the House for our Coats, &c. were obliged to pay Two-pence a-piece for Housing; which done, we mounted, and had a pleasant Down to cross, and the rest of the Road was very good and agreeable: The Squire entertained me with a long Account of the Excellencies of the Horse he rode on, and the great Exploits he had perform'd with him; the beautiful and fertile Country he came from; jumbled together with such a naked Quantity of Improbabilities, that I could hardly contain myself from laughing in his Face. Having pass'd the Wells, we parted with our good Friend Mr. *Percy*, who promised to conduct

duct us on the Morrow to another Wake, at a Village call'd *Aber Edow*. We met on the *Ross* the Ladies of our House, together wich the Gentleman they visited Yesterday: His Name is *Vanaugh*, about twenty-six Years old, of a middle Size, well-shap'd, long-visag'd, and dark Complexion; he dresses gay, is very fond of Womens Company, plays on the Violin, has read some, and pretends to be a Critick and Philosopher; has a great Opinion of himself, very affected, proud and conceited; the Ladies, particularly the *Sadvies*, give the Name of *Nash*, in Imitation of that celebrated Regulator, and generous-spirited Gentleman: Whereas this was a poor effeminate Fellow, whose Capacity was too small to undertake any Thing that reach'd higher than the Scheme of a Fop, or Judgment of a Peasant. This young Beau made his Addresses to a neighbouring young Lady; but as the Battery was manag'd by an unskilful Engineer, the Besieg'd easily dimounted it, and oblig'd him to raise the Siege. He had with him a Sister of less Manners than Beauty: My Reason for mentioning them is, that tho' they were not of our Family, yet being generally with us, I shall have frequent Occasion to speak of them in the Sequel.

We rode Home, and were soon followed by our Company; our nasty Cooks dress'd Vietsuals as usual; Mr. *Vanaugh* and his Sister supped with us, together with Mr. *Poſhib*, a fat, young, Country Gentleman, who behav'd exceeding well; he was not, indeed, what the World calls over-loaded, but he had Sense enough to say little, and seemed quite good-natur'd and inoffensive. I never saw People so unmannerly greedy, particularly 'Squire *Slip Phli*, who took the only

Duck in the Dish, cut of all the Legs and Wings, put them on his Plate, and placed the Carcass again in the Dish ; and being asked for one Limb, he replied, that he could eat them all himself, or they should have been welcome ; of which filling his Mouth full, was provoked to laugh, and, like Sir *Eustace* in *William Gwin Vaughan's Travels*, he sputter'd it in our Faces. Mr. *Snot John* said Grace, and old *Slip Phli* repeated *Amen*, in a loud ridiculous Tone ; this Method was continued during our Stay here. Mr. *Vanaugh* sat in a very formal Posture, behav'd quite like himself, when drank to ; his Ear almost touch'd the Table, or his Shoulder, and when he spoke 'twas in a premeditated, and, as he thought, comprehensive Manner.

Having finish'd Supper, we were almost, stunned with a continual Jargan of bad *English*, that we were going to leave the Room, when old *Slip Phli* begged we would stay ; they called for Punch ; Mr. *Jacome* and myself drank separate ; they gave him a Taste of their Wine ; he drank three Glasses, which cost him Eighteen Pence. I was this Evening but indifferent, which oblig'd me to go to Bed soon ; Mr. *Vanaugh* continued his troublesome Behaviour, and the only solid Sentence I could hear, was, that Mrs. *Slip Phli* made use of to confute Mr. *Vanaugh*, on the State and Condition of *Dean Swift* ; the Miss *Sadvies* indeed favoured us with two or three Songs. We went to Bed at Ten, and left our Company very noisy.

Tuesday the 10th. Arose at Seven o'Clock, and drank five Pints of Water ; came Home ; but through the middle *Welch* Ladies Noise and Stupidity, we staid 'till almost Eleven o'Clock for Breakfast. I declare I never heard fine Ladies hector and swear like them. My Lady happened

pened to have Coffee, for which Reason the Miss *Sadvies* would have the same Breakfast ; our People having none in the House, persuaded them to get some of us ; but we unfortunately had made all ours, as we told them just before ; this the Ladies resented in a furious Manner on the Land-lady, for being without that Commodity.

At Twelve Mr. *Percy* came, but our Hostler being out, retarded our Journey some Time. It being a hazy Morning, and likely to Rain, my Cousin staid at Home. Mr. *Jacome, Percy*, and myself set out, though it began to rain ; the first material Thing we saw was *Llandrindod*, or *Trinity Church*, in which Parish the Wells and our Habitation is situated, though a Mile and half from it ; this Church stands on the Side of a large Mountain, and has no Steeple. Near it is a large FarmHouse, which is generally full of very good Company, and at this House, or some other such, I would advise my Friend to lodge ; but as I shall make some Observations at the End of this Journal, I'll say no more on that Subject ; only be it remembred, that it was at this House, Mr. *Vaughn* visited the young Lady already mentioned.

Leaving *Llandrindod*, we gradually ascended to the Top of this Mountain, which is near as high as any in this County. Here we stopped to have a Horse shod, for there is no Smith at the Wells ; Mr. *Percy* talked to the Man in *Welch*, but we understood little of their Discourse. From hence we rode over several barren and rocky Hills, the Weather continuing very misty ; in an Hour we came to *Llansanfread*, a Hamlet situate in a pretty Valley, on the South Side of which is a large Mountain, covered on the North with Wood ; this Hill is exceeding fertile, and feeds a large

large Number of Sheep. In this Vale, I found the best baked Bread I had seen since I left *Knigton*.

Our Landlord here, among other Things, informed us of one of Mr. *Whitefield*'s Disciples having been there lately ; he repeated several Passages out of his Enthusiastical Journal, (to say no worse of it) which is needless to insert, because the World is perfectly acquainted with that self-interested deceiving, tho' useful Fellow. We lost our Way a little, but a Peasant directed us into it again : We ascended the woody Hill before-mentioned, on the Top is a fine Plain, over which we rode with no small Pleasure ; indeed we had here no fine Prospects of Woods, Lawns, Cities, Towns, or Villages ; one and the same Thing generally attracted our Sight, *i. e.* Hills and high Mountains ; but it being fine Weather, the Mountain quite plain and green, with a good many Sheep feeding, made it very agreeable. A gradual descending Road brought us off this Place, when we entered a Valley, turning to the Right Hand, which Vale continued 'till we came to *Aber Edow*, or *Edway*, as our Geographers write it ; we had Mountains on each Hand, with Wood on its Side ; in the Bottom, which was not very broad, was a great many very good Meads and other Land. On our Left we had the River *Edow*, or *Edway*, which continued with us to the Village aforesaid. In the middle of this Vale is a good large handsome House called *Aber Edow Gourt* : Mr. *Baskerville*'s Widow lives here, her Husband was lately a Justice of the Peace for this County. In a Quarter of an Hour we came to the Place we intended, as above-mentioned : *Aber*, in the *British* Language, signifies a Mouth, and *Edow*

as the Natives, and *Edway*, as Mr. *Senex*, and others call it, is the Name of the River. The Village stands in a whimsical Manner, on a small Hill, in the Middle of a Valley; on the Top of this little Hill stands the Church, a large strong Building, with a good Tower; the Village consists of about thirty or forty indifferent Houses: We alighted at a small one by the River Side; our Horses were put in a Place made with Poles for that Purpose (here being neither Stable or good Hay, except at the Farmers). Mr. *Percy* led us into the House, which was low, and full of Company: We walked, according to Desire, into the Garden, in which were several Booths, or Huts, built with Poles and Boughs: We sat down in one of these, in which was a large flat Stone for a Table. We happened to be too late for Dinner, tho' we had a hot Shoulder of very pretty Mutton, and a Pie; we cut the Mutton, tho' our Stomachs were but indifferent. I begg'd my Friend *Percy* to examine the Pie, of which Curiosity I shall give this true Description: The Vessel it was in, was an earthen Dish, or Platter, of a brown Complexion, and what is call'd the Leading, or Glazing, Time and ill Usage had almost destroy'd. On one Side, was a Piece broke out, about the Breadth of three Inches. This Fraction was clos'd up with some Bran and Water made into the Consistence of a Paste; the Crust of the Pie, was the same Colour as the Plaster aforesaid, under which Crust was a Mess of Skin, Bones, and Flesh of several Sorts of Meat, mix'd together, with a large Quantity of Liquid: Thus far the Pie, which we thought proper to remove to the Bottom of our Table. Our second Course,

was

was a mangled Dish of Beans and Bacon; which had been at some Table before, and two or three Tarts; how rich or nice, it's easy to imagine. Our Liquor was indifferent good Ale; but the Cyder was extraordinary bad; this we gave our Drawer: Its Taste was like Turnip Juice and Vinegar mix'd. Things not pleasing us here, we walk'd up the Hill towards the Church-yard; here we found a large Concourse of People, and under a Yew-Tree, was about ten Couple Dancing to the Tune of an indifferent Fiddle: Against the Tower, were some of the most active Lads I've seen, playing at Fives; their Language was entirely *Welch*. Here we met, of Mr. Percy's Acquaintance, an old Clergyman, who is Rector of two neighbouring Parishes, and a young genteel Attorney: They led us from this Place farther in the Village, where we found an exceeding good Company of Dancers, among whom was Mr. Prothero's Daughter of *Built*, before-mentioned, this Attorney's Sisters, &c. They had two Violins and a Harp; they danc'd in a Booth made of Poles and Boughs: We found in and about this Place, several Hundreds of People, all in their best, and, what is not a natural *Welch* Quality, were very clean. It was to me surprising to see here almost as many People as I thought was in the whole County of *Rædnor*. The Parson knowing of the best Ale, we follow'd him, who led us into a little dark House, where we waited a considerable Time for the Liquor; which was very good when it came. Here came to us a poor inoffensive Fellow, who I remember'd kept an Apothecary's Shop in *Built*, where my Cousin bought something Yesterday. The Parson and Lawyer attack'd him on his Practice of

of Physick and Surgery ; the Parson told him, that he had lately sent a Man to Heaven. If I did (return'd he to the Parson) it's, I believe, more than you ever did. I thought the Repartee quite good. This oblig'd the Parson to halt ; but the Lawyer supporting him, I took the Doctor's Part, and brought him off, (as well as possibly I could). The Reflection of this Scene was quite diverting ; Law, Physick, and Divinity, were here displaying their several Excellencies, tho' not in the greatest Perfection. Here was a young *Welch* Attorney, talking of Sir *Peter King, Coke, and Littleton* ; a Divine, of *St. Paul, St. David, and Dr. Tillotson* ; the Physician, of *Galen, Boerhaave, and Ratcliffe* ; but such mauling of Characters, and misapply'd Rules, my Ears never heard. It began to rain very hard, and continu'd so long, that the Dancers were oblig'd to shelter ; several of them came to our House, where we treated them with Cherries, Ale, &c. the Cherries were bought for Three-pence *per* Pound. We were plagued with an old Woman, who came to employ the Attorney, to sue her eldest Son, on a very frivolous Account ; he assured us, she had been with him several Times, on the same Errand, and she swore, that she had an Hundred Pounds to spend, and that if he would not undertake the Business, she would employ another. The Parson now disputing with a young Lady about paying for Cherries, as she sat on a Bench, by some unforeseen Accident, her Heels flew from under her, and, I've Reason to believe, her Fundamentals (without Cloaths betwixt) touch'd the Stones, which Stones were really nasty ; after which she continued very much confounded, during our Stay, tho' the old Parson laugh'd

loud at this unlucky Fall. It continued wet, and no Hopes of the Weather altering: We went down for our Horses, for there was no lying here, who stood in the Rain, and paid Four-pence a-piece for our Dinner, &c. mounted, and were persuaded to go through *Built* home, tho', something round about. In a Quarter of an Hour we came to the River *Wye*, about a Mile above where the *Edow* falls into that River; the Water being pretty high, we were somewhat fearful, whether we should ford it or go over the Mountains: The Parson plung'd in, and we immediately follow'd him, (as we ought) and all safely arriv'd on the other Side, on which Side we continu'd to *Built*, which is near four Miles. In some Places this River hath a fine smooth Current, and being a large Stream, would bear almost any fresh Water Vessels; but in others very rocky, as it is above the Town; and this Attorney assured me, he had it from very good Hands, that it would cost upwards of an hundred Thousand Pounds to make it navigable from the *Hay*, which is but ten Miles to this Town: Besides, the Waters falling so suddenly from the Hills, without a great deal of Care, the Locks and Flood-gates would be blown up; and indeed the little Importance of Trade, and Barrenness of this Country, would answer no Expence at all of this Sort. Being arriv'd at *Built*, already describ'd, we stopp'd and drank a Glass or two with the Lawyer, and then parted. The Parson living our Way, accompany'd us, together with a Man then going, to our Lodgings. The Parson entertain'd us with a great many Stories, one of which I've inserted at the beginning of this Work.

This Man's general Character is, that he is very

very benevolent, charitable, and not the least covetous: He insisted on our calling at his House, which is the neatest and best contriv'd (I believe) in the whole County of *Radnor*. We did not alight, but he treated us with Ale and Cyder, made on his Estate, and Brandy, a Liquor (tho' ordinary enough) drank in common, and much lik'd in this Part of the World by those who can afford it: We found the Way Home, tho' it was dark, and our Company, according to Custom, very noisy. We understood, by the Ladies and others, that they had a Carp for Supper; we got a little of it warm'd, and found it to be a Chub, of which this River abounds, and some cold Veal. Having supp'd we sat about an Hour, went to Bed, and slept very well.

Wednesday July 12. We arose at Seven, and having drank our Water, went in quest of the other Springs. Walking up the little Valley aforesaid, near the Fountain, and keeping our Course up the Common, we came to a small Wood, in which is a Cottag:; and the Fountains, in Number there. The first we came to has been a little inconvenient Bath, but Mr. *Jones* hath begun to amend it, though nothing but the Timber Work is done yet, and the Whole at a Stand: It is divided into two Parts, in one is the Spring; this is an irregular Triangle, about four Feet over. The Colour of the Water is greyish, and boils up in all Parts of the Well, sometimes two Inches above the Surface, with a simmering Noise. The Quantity arising here is about thrice as large as the Drinking Fountain, and is more brackish and unpleasant. I am told this is a sovereign Bath for the Rheumatism. We were led by a Boy to another Spring, about a hundred Yards from hence, in the Middle of a Thicket. This

This Spring, whose Surface is about four Feet long, and two broad, is almost black, but is continually troubled with the rising of a greyish Water in Clouds, which breaks all over the Surface ; it is also choak'd up with a fresh Water Rill, which is sometimes pretty high, and impregnates with the Mineral, and consequently weakens it ; yet it was then the strongest Mineral (impregnated with all the Particles that compose each Spring before described) I ever tasted, and an immediate Cure for all scorbutick and scrophulous Humours. The Boy told me that his Country People would cure themselves of the Itch with washing two or three times. A few Yards from this is another of like Quality : They rise in a very boggy Place, and the Boy told me, that several People had endeavoured to bottom it without Success. There is always a large yellow Scum on the Edge of each Spring. Having seen these Fountains, we returned home, and breakfasted quietly, (a rare Thing.) We now understood our Company danced last Night. They sent for the Musician five Miles ; seven Couple danc'd about six Hours, and would give the Fellow but half a Crown : Old *Slip Phli* was Manager, who was going to beat the Man for refusing the Money, and telling them the Action was quite small ; however the Fiddler did not take the half Crown. This proving a wet Day, we were oblig'd to stay at home. But Mr. *Percy* went this Day into *Brecknockshire*, promising to see us on the Morrow. Mr. *Slip Phli* this Morning had another odd Dispute. It seems he ordered his Man to buy some Oats in the Country, which he did of a poor neighbouring Fellow, who this Morning brought them in.

The

The Servant pretended that he had not brought them agreeable to his Bargain, and therefore insisted on the Oats for nothing, which were four Bushels. This frightened the poor Fellow in such a Manner, that he went to Mr. *Slip Phli* the Master for Redress, but he told him, that he was a Rascal, and deserved to be punish'd; however, in the mean Time, they found Means to convey out of the Bags about one Bushel of the Oats, which the poor Fellow missing, apply'd to Mr. *Hen's Pest* for a Warrant; he recommended him to Mr. *Jones*, but Mr. *Jones* being unwilling to trouble himself, the Fellow carried off the Remainder, and with a Volley of Curses declared, he would never bring Oats to such scrubby Gentlemen again.

A poor Woman, this Day, brought Mrs. *Slip Phli* a Pint of Strawberries, and as much Cream, and ask'd her to give for them what she thought they were worth; she putting her Hand in her Pocket, took out a Half-penny, and gave the Woman, saying she had no more Copper, or would have given it her: So mean an Action we all thought very extraordinary. Our young Ladies continu'd very gay, or, if the Expression may be us'd, wanton, especially the *Sadvies*. This Morning Mr. *Jacome* and myself took a Walk to Mr. *Jones*'s, which, notwithstanding it faces the North, and on the Side of a Hill surrounded by a low Wood, it's so well contriv'd, that no Wind affects it much. Mr. *Jones*'s Brother the Preacher, that we heard on Sunday, din'd with us this Day, but old *Slip Phli* behav'd so intolerably rude to him, that the good Man left us soon after it was over. The Weather continu'd wet, with a cold North-Wind. While we were at Dinner, a Counsellor at Law alighted at the

Door

Door, and was introduced by Mr. *Snot John*, who knew him ; he entertain'd us with a long Account of the wretched Accommodation at the Wells in *Brecknockshire*, mentioned to us at *Buit*, and the rude and ill-natur'd Behaviour of the Company there. This I thought might have had some Effect on the Manners and Behaviour of this he was in ; but *Lupus pilum mutat non Mentem*. The young Squire sat next me, and a Couple of Ducks being on the Table again, of which he is very fond, the Ladies divided one of them, and the young *Briton* again seiz'd the other, cut, or rather tore off the four Limbs, and put the Carcass in the Dish again. Our Company now begg'd we would be so good to drink in common with them, which we refus'd, for several Reasons, Mr. *Jacome* indeed did at last, and paid Sixteen-pence for three Glasses. The Violin entertain'd us during Dinner, which, with old *Slip Pbl's* cursing him for refusing the half Crown, and the Landlady for taking the Cups out half full ; together with the Tongues of a Dozen Women moving at once, Mr. *Vanaugh's* Affectation, the Squire's Rusticity, and the new Counsellor's Repetition of his late Usage, made a Jargon and confus'd Sound much more harsh and unintelligible than that of a Sailor's boosing Ken. We were oblig'd to leave the Company, and found in the Smoaking-Room Mr. *Bartie*, a young Attorney : We now drank a Bottle or two of Wine, viz. Mr. *Jacome*, Mr. *Bartie*, Mr. *Poshib*, the Squire, and myself. During this came in Miss *Tetby Sadvie*, who was so condescending to drink a Glass of our Wine ; she rallied the Squire *Slip Pbl*, on their offering the Fellow half a Crown ; said it look'd exceeding scandalous, and that this same Man, at her

her Father's House, had receiv'd above a Guinea for less Musick ; this warm'd the Blood of young *Slip Phli*, who told her (like a Man) that he had as many Guineas to pay on such Account as she, or any of her Family, and desired none of her unnecessary Airs : The natural Heat of the *Welch* prompted them to say more, 'till they brought more Company to know the Matter, which abated the Storm faster than it rose, tho' not without some Blows. Old *Slip Phli* observing I drank Wine, insisted on my going to a Bowl of Punch, which they were drinking ; I remember I drank but two Glasses, for which I was charg'd 15 Pence ; the old Fellow bullied the Landlord so, that he gave him half a Pint of Shrub to be quiet. This Afternoon arriv'd Mr. *Oddy*, a lusty, good-natur'd, young Man, but a Rake ; this Gentleman Miss *Sadvies* had been continually talking of, whose Arrival rejoiced them not a little. They ask'd us to dance, but we, for several Reasons, refus'd ; they continu'd roaring and making an uncommon Noise all Night, committing almost every Excess : We went to Bed at Ten ; but were awak'd about One with the Noise of a Rape, a Rape ; it seems the Ladies had thrown Mr. *Oddy* down, and he and Mr. *Van'se*, made that shocking Noise : We enquired the Reason of it, and slept again ; it was indeed too monstrous a Cry to be made any where but on a *Welch* Mountain.

Thursday we arose at Five, drank as usual, tho' at Home, had a noisy Breakfast, but were diverted in the Smoaky-Room with Mr. *Vanaugh's* affected playing on the Violin ; Mr. *Van'se* went a short Journey, but return'd at Dinner, taking, according to Custom, little or no Notice of his Wife, but was very fond of the *Sadvies*. For

Dinner,

Dinner, among the rest, we had another Couple of Ducks ; the young Squire serv'd one as usual ; but upon examining found all the Guts in it, nor any Thing else taken from it but Head and Feathers ; the Squire slipt it quietly down, and said nothing : But I remember this Cookery answer'd one End well, that is, sav'd a Pound or two of Victuals from the devouring Jaws of this Famine-breeders the Squire. I was telling the Gentlemen at Table, that we had an odd Pie at *Aber Edow*, about which old *Slip Phli* (half hearing) began a formal Lye to her Ladyship ; I gave him Time to finish it, in which he confounded and exposed himself sufficiently ; in short, the Ladies could make nothing of it, but begg'd me to let them know the Story, which I did, and own, as contrary to his Account as I could, with Truth and good Manners.

After Dinner, as we intended, and provided for this Morning, we went a Fishing, but I must not forget that this Day we had Part of a Buck for Dinner, that Lady *Sillimaw* presented us with ; (Miss *Sillimaw* offered to make a Pye of Part of it, but we had no Oven :) Which Meal we had scarcely finished, when we were alarm'd with an Account of an *English* Nobleman and two *Welch* Gentlemen at the Door ; they wanted Lodgings, but could not procure any here, or in the Neighbourhood, though they enquired at almost every House ; so were obliged to go to *Ryadergwy*, about twelve Miles off. Mr. *Odfly* was acquainted with them, and by him my Lady sent her Service and a Plate of Venison ; but his Lordship and the Gentleman returned neither Compliment by Mr. *Odfly*, or delivered it themselves, which affronted her Ladyship very much. We went (as I said) a fishing to *Itbon*,

Itbon, had very good Sport, but I had the Mortification to lose my Pocket Book and some Notes of the Journey, which I miss'd not till the following Day ; a Fellow by this River making Hay was much diverted with the Humour of a Float, which he had never seen before. We came to a large Bridge over the River, and enquired for our Friend Mr. *Percy* ; the Man told us he was just gone to the Publick House ; we left off Fishing, and walking home, found him there, and the Servants of the Nobleman, &c. going to *Ryadergowy* ; they had two Chairs, several loaded Horses, a great many Dogs ; their Servants and Horses very much tired, their Dogs hungry, and all had about twelve Miles to go : This was about Seven o'Clock. Their Business in this Country was to shoot *Growse*, a most excellent Diversion, here being Plenty of that Game ; tho' one Mr. *Gwin* of *Garth* is pretty jealous of it, but I'm told that in *Montgomery* and *Merionethshires* they are more abundant. Mr. *Odfly* (the Masters being just set out) provided a Country Fellow for a Guide over these almost unpassable Mountains, and agreed with him for 1 s. which the Fellow thought was a good Sum, (tho' on Horseback;) but Somebody hinting to him, that he might as soon have had Half a Crown, (which it was really worth;) the Man then told *Odfly*, that he must have this Sum ? What, says *Odfly*, did you not agree for a Shilling ? and immediately ran at him, knock'd the poor Fellow down, and afterwards obliged him to go for the Price agreed. My Cousin and Miss *Sillimaw* told me this, who lik'd each other's Company much, they being both of a modest affable Disposition, and were very frequently together. We found Mr. *Percy* here, as before said, who obliged us to go with

him home ; he treated us very handsomely, tho' his Servants could not speak *English* ; I saw here Sheep folded in a Barn, and having asked the Use of it, was told it was only for the Dung, but I afterwards understood it was for the Milk, which was taken once a Day. We had a merry Affair with two *Scotchmen*, who cheat the People of this Country intolerably, as they had now Mr. *Percy*, who bought Shifts of them, if we had not been there ; but the Incident being too long to relate, and Things of the same Sort common enough in *England*, I shall omit it here. He sent us home with two Horses and a Servant ; he also lent us a Coffee Mill, which we much wanted, and promised to see us on the Morrow : We found our Company at home very noisy ; among other Things Mr. *Odfly* finding a Common-Prayer Book of Miss *Lomley Sadvie's*, uttered with great Surprize, God bless me, what, Religion here ? By G—d I am shock'd at this ! Sir, she replied, you mistake it, you think we have no Religion, for, I assure you, I read in that Book the Lessons for every Day in the Week, which demonstrated that her gilt Prayer-Book was like some modern Gentlemen's Libraries. They began dancing and playing their bearish Tricks, and continued so to do 'till Five in the Morning ; an Hour after which Time, *Friday July 14*, we arose, and found them in a wretched Condition ; Miss *Tedbie Sadvie* sat in a great Chair by the Kitchen Fire, with an old red Cloak, (without any Apron) over her Shoulders. The People of the House lay in the same sleepy Condition on a Bench by, and all over the House some or other were a sleeping ; we drank our Quantity of Water, and work'd it off at the Ladder, and missing my Pocket-Book went to the River in quest of it ; but not finding it, or a

Penknife

Penknife I lost with it, and rememb'ring a Boy who went to School at the Meeting-House stood by us some Time a fishing, I went to the School and told the Master, who was the same that preach'd the Welch Sermon on *Sunday*; he call'd and ask'd the Boy, who answer'd, he did not see it; I told him it would be of no Service to any one but myself. He then look'd at me very gravely, and said, that he was sure the Boy would not tell a Lye, nor any belonging to that House on any Account whatsoever: I went off very unsatisfied, but pleased with the seeming Simplicity of the School-master.

We came *Home*, intending to go to *Knighton* this Evening, being quite tir'd with our Treatment here. Mr. *Van'se*, his Wife, Mrs. *Lobluck*, Mr. *Od-fly*, and *Pishob*, went away this Morning. I gathered a few Mushrooms, gave Part to Mr. *Hen's Pest*, who order'd his Man to broil them for him; I lett one on a Fire-shovel of Coals and went up Stairs; but coming again for my Mushroom, I found an old Woman striding over it, and holding an Argument with our Landlord: Whether any thing dropp'd from the old Bottom of this nasty Lady into it, I can't tell; but this I'm sure, that I eat it without making much Enquiry. This Morning came a Gentleman, who is a Neighbour and Acquaintance of the celebrated *Bumper Squire Jones*; (who lives about nine Miles from hence;) this Gentleman told me, that he would willingly have persuad'd Mr. *Jones* to have come with him, who, he says, drinks excessive hard, and that he is a very generous Man; but will be dead soon, without proper Care; and indeed I took him, Mr. *Wepol*, (for that was this Gentleman's Name) to be in the same Condition; he almost loaded a Horse with Wine, Arrack, Rum, &c. for fear (as he said) they

had none at the Wells. This Day some more of my Acquaintance came ; but we were determined to return with some Company that were going to *Knighton* this Evening, which Company were oblig'd to dine and drink Tea out of Doors, we discharg'd the House the Rates, which are these :

	l. s. d.
For Eating, exclusive of Coffee, Tea,	3 0 1 0
<i>&c. per Day</i>	}
Ale, per Quart	0 0 3
Cyder, per Quart	0 0 4
Wine, per Bottle	0 2 3
Shrub, per Gallon	1 0 0
Horse, per Night	0 0 6

Oats are charged here the same as in *England*, but they are very indifferent ; you may buy them of the neighbouring Farmers for Seven-pence per Bushel. It's customary to give the Woman something, who serves you with the Water. I left my Compliments, with our good Friend's Coffee-Mill, and were just going to mount, when our Landlady told us, that the Gentlemen expected (this was old and young *Slip Phli*, and *Snot John*) to be paid for the Liquor my Cousin drank, while we were at *Aber Edow*, but upon her demanding to know the Sum, they deny'd it, cursing the Landlady as a Lyar. Just as we mounted, the Squire began to quarrel with the Hostler about his Spurs, (who had lost one of mine) and his Master had carried my Friend's Bridle to *Radnor* ; the Man told the Squire, he would look it as soon as the Company were mounted, he said another Word or two which displeased and drew the Squire's Blood all into his Face, who ran furiously at the Hostler and beat him pretty much. I took him off, and was favoured by him with assist-
in

ing me on with my Coat, which moderated his Passion something: We mounted and rode off, leaving the Squire very noisy with the Hostler. Mr. Jacome took a Bridle off some Horse's Head, instead of his own, and then we left *Llandrindod Wells* behind.

I now consider'd myself like the *Israelites* going from *Egypt*; we rode by *Llanbadern*, and baited at *Pena Pont*, our Company were two Gentlemen and three Ladies, who were very facetious, and we spent our Time merrily: We here saw Oat-Cakes, some made very thin, and of fine Oatmeal, others of coarse, and considerably thicker, but neither exceeded half an Inch in Depth; but the Diameter was about sixteen Inches. We continu'd exceeding merry, 'till we came to *Knighton*, when it was near Night. Here we prated with the Ladies, but the Gentleman promised, and indeed came and drank a Glass with us at our Inn; we had a good Supper, but being very sleepy, we went to Bed soon, and slept exceeding well, in a better Bed than I had seen this Week.

Saturday 15. Arose at eight o'Clock, and while Breakfast was preparing, we went to view the Town, which I shall thus describe:

Knighton is situate on a little Rising betwixt three Hills, the River *Teme* running on the East-Side of it; there are several Streets, and in general the Building is good, especially that Street leading to the Church. This is a good handsome plain Building; at the End of it is a School, and just beyond the Church-Yard is a Bridge ovet the *Teme*. The *Market-House* is built on the high Part of the Town; from hence is a pretty View down the Valley, thro' which the River runs. This is the only Town of Note in the Hundred of its own Names, is a Borough, but sends no Member to Parliament. The Market

Market is on *Thursdays*, and is well supply'd with Cattle, Sheep, Hogs, Hops, Salt, Linnen, and Woollen-Cloth, Iron-ware, and great Quantities of Grain. A great many Men, which are called Badgers, buy Corn and other Goods, and carry them up in the Hill-Country. My Landlord told me, he hath had upwards of twenty Waggon-Load of Grain in his House on a Market-Day. The scarceſt Thing is Firing, and made chiefly of Wood, which they buy by the Acre when growing, and comes very dear ; ſome Coal they have from Mr. *Pardoe's* Pits on the *Clee-Hill*, which is twenty Miles Land Carriage. The Inhabitants have a good Character, they dress genteel, and tho' it is called a *Welch* Town, very few can ſpeak that Language.

We ſet forward at Ten, and had a pleasant Ride to *Ludlow*, tho' ſome Part of it was very hot : My Cousin, who, when we came from *Llan-drindod*, was very ill, was now recover'd ; we came to *Ludlow* about two o'Clock, where we din'd, and eat Cherries after ; which, together with a Glass of indifferent Wine, made me ſick, which continued 'till I came to the *Clee-Hill*, and here I ask'd the People at a Publick-Houſe if they could let us have a Dram of any Thing. They affur'd me they had none ; but ſeeing a particular Friend there, he fetch'd me out as good Cherry-Brandy as I ever tasted. Such ill Consequences ſometimes had the late Gin-Act ; for I'm ſatisfied I could not have got to the next Town, which is *Cleobury*, without this Aſſiſtance. On this Hill are ſome Chalybeate Springs. On our Right we had a large Prospect, and in a little Time, we came to a Foot-Road, or Pafſage under Ground, which brings Coal out on Wooden

Wooden Waggon; I'm told seven hundred Yards from the Place where they are dug. Riding gently on, in two Hours we came to *Cleobury*, staid here a little, and all arriv'd safe and well at Home before Night.

I shall, for the Benefit of those who intend to go to these Wells, mention some Observations made, which may be of Service, and make this Place more agreeable and satisfactory than perhaps it may otherwise be: The Lodgings I would recommend are with *Griffiths's* at *Llandrindod*, *Davis's* near *Mr. Jones's*, or any such House in the Neighbourhood, though *Griffiths's* is the best. You ought to carry Sheets, Napkins, and other Linnen with you; a Servant should be there a Day before to provide Rooms, &c. and buy Provisions, which may be best done at *Buit* on a *Monday*, and at a cheap Rate; which you must take care to dres yourselves, though they provide all Materials for that Use. Some send a Week or 14 Days before, and brew a Cask of Ale, but most People buy it at the Publick Houses at the Price I have inserted, and also of other Liquors, of which they never abate any thing, let the Quantity you buy be what it will; therefore you may be a better Judge then me whether it will answer carrying there any Liquor, considering the Price of the Commodity when bought, and Trouble and Inconveniency of bringing it here: You have Fowls, Eggs, &c. brought to the Door, and exceeding cheap. If it should so happen that you drop into the Company of *Welch* Lodgers, and are the weaker Party, take care how you offend, for they are exceeding troublesome, jealous, passionate, and revengeful, therefore

the less of their Company the better. Dancing, if you like it, is very much used here, and Musick pretty good, and cheap enough; Fishing, as aforesaid, is very good in the *Ithon* and *Wye*.

As to Water-drinking, &c. it is proper to have the Body prepared by Physick before you set out; and when there, I think this Rule a good one to be observed; arise in the Morning at Six, and as soon as you can drink the Waters; for a middling Constitution five or six Pints, which may be done by the Ladies at the House, it being brought every Morning; if the first Pint were warm'd, it would operate the sooner, though it is a little more nauseous; the more Exercise you use the better during the Operation; in an Hour and an half you may breakfast, but Care ought to be taken to keep you from catching cold, and of eating Breakfast greedily; you may dine about Two, use Exercise after, and sup at Eight; and if you prefer your Health to the Pleasure of an unreasonable and useless Hour, go to Bed at Ten; you ought to stay a Fortnight at least, (though my Business prevented my staying so long) and it is absolutely necessary for those who have good Health, to preserve it by purging off the gross Humours of the Body by these Waters, which Physick can't effect.

It is a dangerous Thing for pregnant Women to drink; but frequently makes a barren one pregnant: In short, this Well wants nothing but an agreeable Situation, and good Company of Taste and Experience, with those Amusements and Diversions that attend some inconsiderable Wells in the Kingdom, to render it as famous as *Spa* in *Germany*.

F I N I S.



